



Action for Integrated Community Development



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

ACTION FOR INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

P.O Box 57 Lyantonde, Uganda

Tel: 256- 701 047 522, aicod.lyantonde@gmail.com, www.aicod.blogspot.com

AICOD COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL REPORT 2016.

BACK GROUND:

Action for Integrated Community Development was established in 2009 to respond to the Community needs and challenges of marginalized children due to disability, HIV/AIDS, Poverty and hunger. Children with disabilities, Orphans and other vulnerable children suffer from limited access to education and employment opportunities leading to economic and social exclusion. They are vulnerable to lack of social security and due to breakdown in the extended family system in Uganda coupled with limited land, shelter, food security, rehabilitation services and other economic avenues. It is also noted that such suffering do not only make these poor children vulnerable but also limit their productive potentials and alternatives in life and thus live and die with resignation and self pity.

LOCATION

The Organisation office is located 200 Kilometers (at least 3 hour drive) on the Kampala - Mbarara high way. It's located in Lyantonde town on Lumaama/Rufura road just behind the district headquarters 0.5 Kilometer from the town centre, off Lyantonde - Kaliiro road.

LEGAL STATUS:

AICOD is dully registered by the District Community Development Department of Lyantonde district registration number LYT/473 as a Community Based Organisation. The process to register at National NGO board is underway.

MISSION

The mission of AICOD is "To contribute to the fundamental basic needs of Children with disabilities, Orphans and other vulnerable children especially those living under difficult circumstances to minimum standards for a life of dignity through home based rehabilitation services, vocational skills training, advocacy, HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support services and establishment of institutional and physical structures that improve on their living conditions".

VISION

The vision of AICOD is “Communities where Children with disabilities, Orphans and other vulnerable children enjoy their full potential and life of dignity and sustainable livelihoods”.

OBJECTIVES

- a To promote inclusive education and training for children and youth with disabilities, and other vulnerable children and set up a model sheltered training centre for purposes of providing them with marketable and employable job skills that makes them self sustaining.
- b To promote community Based means to empower Children with disabilities and to promote their social welfare including rehabilitation and improved health through home based rehabilitation and referral services.
- c To increase Community awareness and health literacy on disease prevention especially HIV/AIDS and promotion of healthy life styles in order to have healthy and productive livelihoods.
- d To initiate appropriate community Programmes aimed at enhancing sustainable food security systems at community and household levels for sustainable economic, social growth, survival and development of orphans and other vulnerable children and their households.
- e To enhance AICOD’s institutional capacity to effectively and efficiently facilitate and coordinate relevant development initiatives and Programmes.

CORE VALUES:

- The Organisation is committed to **increasing knowledge and skills** about disability, health and health rights and to seek, adopt and diffuse innovative solutions.
- Focusing on **empowering children with disabilities** and **other vulnerable children** at grassroots to know their rights with the hope that they can fight for it and actively participate in their own development endeavours.
- Promotion of **Multisectoral approach** to development issues.
- Emphasizing **transparency and accountability** in all the organisation work.
- Upholding **Respect** for all persons irrespective of religion, Ethnicity, colour, disability and social status.

AICOD GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- a Community Involvement and Participation
- b Continuous Learning and use of best practices
- c HIV/AIDS and Gender main streaming
- d Focus on Vulnerable groups.

AICOD TECHNICAL DOMAINS:

- 1 Inclusive education and Vocational training
- 2 Community Based Rehabilitation
- 3 Health, Water and Sanitation Promotion
- 4 Advocacy lobbying
- 5 Maternal and child health and Nutrition

AICOD GOVERNANCE

1 General Assembly:

This is a supreme policy body. It is charged with policy approval and enactment. It's composed of all members' representatives. It elects members of the Management Board

2 Management Board

This is an executive arm of the Organization that is charged with policy formulation and overseeing the running of the Organisation. Composed of 6 members, it formulates policies that govern the Organisation. It also approves plans, projects and budgets for all the Organisation activities.

3. Secretariat:

This is a policy Implementation body of the Organisation. It is mainly composed of employed staff to implement projects as approved by the Management Board. It is headed by the Programme Coordinator who is an ex-officio member to the Board. It initiates/formulates projects, budgets and plans and presents them to the Board of Directors for approval. The secretariat has 3 programme staff including the coordinator and 3 part-time workers.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

The organisation currently has operations in 3 sub-counties of Lyantonde rural, Lyantonde Town Council and Kaliiro.

- Home Based Rehabilitation services for disabled children
- Education and Vocational skills training for children with disabilities and other vulnerable children
- Community advocacy programme on disability and child protection
- Community livelihood programme for persons with disabilities and Vulnerable groups
- HIV/AIDS Awareness and Testing.
- Community Health promotion regarding maternal and child health and nutrition.

The mandate of AICOD is to contribute to the fundamental basic needs of children with disabilities and other vulnerable living under difficult circumstances to minimum standards, for a life of dignity through Home based Care, social rehabilitation and advocacy services that improve on their living

conditions.

This report highlights AICOD's activities so far carried out. These include among others: Medical assessment, make a difference day, Community Mobilisation, formation of mother's groups and home visits (follow-up) capacity building of mama Groups.

Medical Assessment:

The organisation together with Uganda Marathon staff identified Bonnie an 8 year old boy who was being tied onto a tree by his family for fear of him getting lost as they were ignorant of what can be done to him. After several visits, it was decided by the Marathon team to have him taken to Masaka referral Hospital for medical Assessment. Bonnie was taken to the hospital mental health department and was diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) by the Psychiatric doctor. The doctor prescribed medicine for him and home based rehabilitation was recommended in order to have him accepted and integrated with other family and community

Bonnie currently is taken by the AICOD office together with his Grandma to Masaka Hospital every after four weeks for review; *"there is a very significant positive change in Bonnie!"* the doctor exclaimed when we took Bonnie for the third review. The Marathon has continued to provide transportation and the cost of medication for Bonnie.



Bonnie at the Hospital with Grandma

Make a deference Day.

AICOD has entered into partnership with Uganda International Marathon and

both parties agreed to implement activities aimed at improving the livelihoods of children with disabilities and their households. In this regard, Bennie's household was selected to benefit from the Make difference day of the Uganda Marathon whereby volunteer runners offer a helping hand to vulnerable persons in communities around Masaka. On 2nd June, a team of 13 volunteers comprising of 12 young men and women from Europe and United Arab Emirates and 1 Ugandan young man braved the whole sunny day from morning till evening working on fence around Bennie's grandparent's homestead and installing some locally made play gadgets for Bonnie. The homestead is in Lyabuguma village, Biwolobo parish in Lyantonde sub-county-Lyantonde district.

The whole cost of the fence was financed by the Uganda marathon. The community members around Bonnie's household also enthusiastically came and participated in the construction work which was also witnessed by the local council chairperson of the village.

Parents of other disabled children were also invited to come and witness the event as to gain some understanding and need to take good care of their children.



Volunteers busy constructing a fence for Bonnie

Impact of the intervention:

1. Bonnie who was a lonely young boy and regarded a curse in the family, some other people who live nearby had this to say *"our children fear to come near him because he is a dangerous animal he might harm them"*. This statement has since changed many children now spend most of their time with him in the play gadgets swinging with him while hugging.
2. The family of Bonnie which had been regarded a cursed one is now

regarded as a blessed one since the visit of the volunteers. Many neighbours now visit and spend time at the household.

3. Bonnie's Grandparents are overwhelmed by the support and the sudden changes that have occurred in the young boy. These are the remarks made by the grandparents of Bonnie:

Grandpa: *"I never imagined in my life that this child will ever become so important in this family because we have always counted him a loss and waited for a time when he will die and get relief over him now see what he has brought in my compound; who ever imagined that a Muzungu will ever step in this home but now see how many are these!"*.

Grandma: *"Children in this village used to refer to him as an animal, and could not come near him but now see they are hugging and seated with him in a swing God is great I don't know how to thank you people you have removed shame and stigma from us!"*

4. Generally, there is great improvement in the general welfare of Bonnie; he no longer chews the clothes, he now sits with the rest of the family on meals previously they used to throw food for him outside at the tree where he was tied; his fellow children now can play with him so he has company and has gained acceptance from all the people at home. He now moves freely around the homestead and takes himself into the play gadgets alone and gets out when he is done.



Bonnie gets friends from the UK



Bonnie is enjoying his new locally made play gadgets

The Marathon day.

AICOD was on 5th June 2016 effectively represented by 6 people four of whom are staff members and two are members of the organisation at the Marathon day. All the six people fully participated in the running and finished their respective distances. After all the run all the people commented “this is a race like no other”. The race was overwhelmingly exciting and members of the AICOD team vowed to participate in all other future races together with their friends. The race was intended to raise funds to support various projects in Greater Masaka.





Running the marathon by the AICOD Team

Community mobilisation:

The organisation through its local volunteers has launched a mobilisation campaign to identify and register children with disabilities in Lyantonde district. This program will initially cover 3 sub-counties of Lyantonde rural, Lyantonde Town Council and Kaliiro. 5 meetings under this have been conducted; 2 in Lyantonde rural, 2 in Lyantonde Town and 1 in Kaliiro. Out of these, a total of 78 children with varied disabilities have been registered, as follows:

- Lyantonde rural 22 children from 2 parishes.
- Lyantonde town 20 children from selected villages of both parishes
- Kaliiro 36 children from 1 parish

The purpose of this program is to know the number of the children and use the data to plan effective interventions that suites each individual child.

This office has entered negotiations with the education department of Lyantonde district local government to secure way of how best these children can be supported to attain education appropriately. We are still brainstorming and hope a good plan will come out of these talks.

Formation of Mama Groups:

Throughout all places where we have gone to register the children, 99.9% of the parents and care givers who turned up are women (Mothers). This together with our personal experiences confirms that its only mothers who bear the burden of care and support of their children and father only care when they understand that there will be some gain financially or materially.

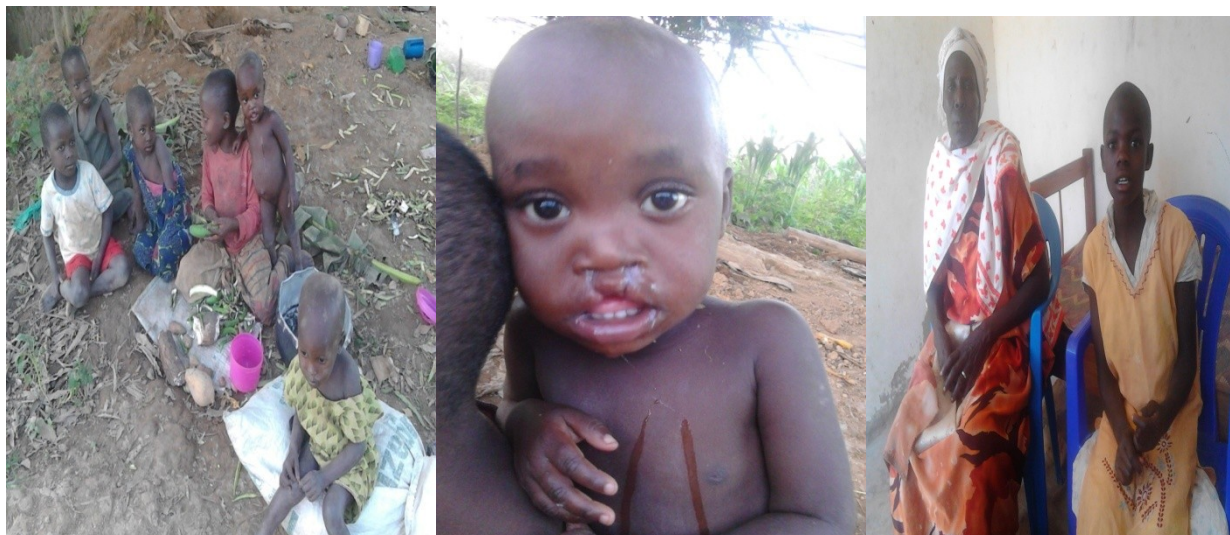
This organisation has come up with an idea to support these mothers with knowledge and other resources to sustainably and effectively provide adequate care and support to their children. 5 Mama Groups have so far been formed as follows:

- 2 groups in Kiyinda - Kaliiro with 32 members all together
- 1 group in Kalagala - Lyantonde rural with 11 members
- 2 group in Lyantonde town with 18 members all together
- 1 group in Gayaza - Lyantonde rural with 12 members.
- 2 groups in Mpumudde: Kalyamenvu and Mpumudde Central = 38 members altogether

All groups are still at their formative stage but with a lot of enthusiasm to make a difference. This calls for a lot capacity building to make their dreams come true.



Mama groups attending their inaugural meetings



Some of the families and children visited and registered.

MAMA Group meetings:

In order to strengthen the spirit of self help among the households with disabled children, the organisation came up with the idea of bringing mothers of children with disabilities together and formulate them into groups called “MAMA Groups” where they can exchange ideas, share challenges and come up with possible solutions to their children problems together. Five Mama Groups are in place and were all visited during their respective meeting days. The purpose of meeting with these is to provide guidance and insights of group dynamics.



Mama Groups at their weekly meetings

School visits:

One of the main purposes of AICOD’s existence is to ensure that children with disabilities attain education appropriate to their respective abilities within an all inclusive environment. AICOD believe in community integration rather than institutionalisation. In a bid to achieve this, we conducted a school mapping and assessment for accessibility purposes. 5 schools with Lyantonde town and the surrounding areas were visited and found out that children with disabilities were not in school because the environment in these schools doesn’t favour them. The unfavourable conditions range from attitudes of teachers and other children, physical barriers such as the way buildings were constructed their location and latrines are not user friendly. In all schools visited, there is no

single teacher that was trained in special needs education. These and many other factors have led children with varied disabilities unable to attend school.



Some of the school structures and pupils visited

Home visits (follow-up):

We have continued our efforts to follow-up on the identified children in their home to talk to their immediate family members in an effort to bring them hope and confidence in their disabled family members. During the visit, staff also talks about the rights and needs of these children such as education, nutrition, medication and general welfare of disabled children. During this period, 3 households were reached i.e. Bonnie, Clinton and Travis.

Bonnie: Bonnie's condition and welfare continue to improve every passing day. He is now being well accepted at home and continues to enjoy the play gadgets that were constructed by the Marathon international runners. Other neighbouring children have become friends with Bonnie and do visit him regularly to play.

Clinton: He is suspected to be Cerebral palsy with mental retardation. His mother is very supportive of him except she is poor to take him to school and meeting his basic needs. The father abandoned the family because of the disabled child.

Travis: He is a newly identified child with hearing impairment. We visited him at his mother's work place (shop) so we did not get enough information regarding the child. The little information is that the father also seems to have abandoned them.



Some of the children visited; in the photo are Travis and Clinton. Bonnie's video has refused to attach.

Meeting with Education officials:

In an effort to have disabled children go to school, several stakeholders must be involved and the district education department is very big actor in this process. An introductory meeting was held with the district education officer who invited some of the teachers who trained in special needs education. The meeting was successful and led to another big meeting which will take place on 25th of August at 9:00am in DEO's office. The meeting was attended by all teachers trained in SNE, District inspector of schools and some head teachers. The aim of the meeting is to chat a way of having disabled children enrolled in schools and what is needed to be done.



Part of the teachers with the Inspector of schools at the meeting.

Client Mobilisation:

Through this activity, AICOD has continued its efforts to reach more and more children with disabilities and their households in a bid to bring them on board reached 2 households where more 3 children were identified and registered. They include 2 physically impaired and 1 mentally retarded children.



Some of the new children identified

MAMA Group visits:

Three Mama Groups meeting/visits were conducted during the month during their respective meeting days. This is done to strengthen group members with the spirit of self help among themselves households and to provide guidance and insights of group dynamics and to help them in formulating their group bye-laws. The groups visited include

- Bamama b'abalema Kalagala Tusitukire Wamu
- Bamama b'abalema Biwolobo Tumanyane
- Bamama b'abalema Lyantonde B Tukolerewamu

So far, the bye-laws of two groups have been finalised and pending their adoption in this month.



Some of Mama Groups visited

Safe Water Conference:

AICOD was selected by Uganda Marathon to participate in the safe water filtration conference held in at Brovard Hotel in Masaka town on 15th September 2016. The conference was organised in conjunction with SPOUT of Water a company that is involved in commercial production of safe water filters. AICOD was represented by two staffs and 5 representatives of her member groups. The purpose of the conference was to introduce Uganda Marathon partners on the new innovation and to train them how it works and the benefits thereof.

By the end of the conference, it was realised that the water filters are not only just for safe water filtering but also has other benefits and these are:

- Saves time wasted in cooking/boiling drinking water as it does not involve any kind of boiling.
- The innovation saves money that would be spent on buying charcoal, firewood, gas or electricity to boil drinking water.
- The technology since it does not involve any kind of boiling, means that less fire wood will be used by households using the technology thus reducing on the loss of vegetation and forests in form of charcoal burning and firewood.
- The technology is 99.9% efficient in water purification by Ugandan standards. Meaning households using water from the filters will less likely be attacked by any waterborne or related diseases thus saving lots of money spent on treatment of such diseases.

- The last lesson was that the innovation is also an economic activity of its own. All participants were encouraged to get involved in this business. Uganda Marathon donated each of the AICOD groups 3 filters as a starting capital for this venture.

Performance of groups in selling Filters:

The prevailing poverty coupled with severe famine has rendered almost all people in areas of Lyantonde poor due to the prolonged drought. This therefore has affected many people's incomes as most of these people depend solely on farming.

Due to the reason above, all groups have not yet sold any water filter, although people are interested in buying it. They promise to buy once the situation normalises.



The AICOD Team at the conference.

Visitors by Uganda Marathon:

AICOD hosted visitors from United Kingdom. The visitors were parents to the Uganda Marathon's Community partnership Coordinator Mr. Andrew Bownds. The visitors came on Friday 16th and went on Saturday 17th September 2016.

The visitors were taken around the project area of operation especially they visited the Mama Groups and were excited at the good work done.



Pictures during the visits

Mama Groups meeting on Safe water filter

This was held between 28th to 30th in all 5 groups to make the group members aware of the benefits of water filters and how it operates. Members were excited about the innovation but expressed fear of lack of money in this period. They thus promised to buy/market the filters once the harvest is over. At the end of the meeting all members had known how to install, clean and proper maintenance of the filters.



Kiyinda Group at the training on saving and matching funds

This activity was carried out from 4th to 6th October 2016. The aim of the meetings was to assess the level of readiness to receive matching funds as per our matching requirements.

All the five Mama Groups were assessed and helped to shape there saving cultures but three of the groups were found to be ready for the matching. These are:

- Kiyinda Mama Group
- Kalagala and
- Biwolobo Mama Group.

One of the criteria for accessing matching funds is that the group must have saved atleast UGX.150,000/= by the time of the assessment.

Disbursement of matching funds.

This activity was carried out in the three groups as follows:

Name of Group	Activity involved	Amount saved UGX.	Amount Received UGX.
Kiyinda Mama Group	Goats & Piggery	850,000	400,000
Kalagala Mama Group	Goats Rearing	260,000	200,000
Biwolobo Mama Group	Piggery	220,000	200,000
Totals		1,330,000	800,000



*Biwolobo Group members at the meeting
the Matching funds*



Kiyinda Group Receiving

Follow up on Mama Groups:

Five Mama Groups were visited to follow up on the matching grants they received. And another two visited to assess whether they are ready to receive matching funds. The groups that received matching funds include:

- Kiyinda Mama Group – Received UGX. 400,000. This group used the money to buy 3 Piglets which they distributed to members that have the capacity to take good care of them. The piglets were bought and members who took the piglets signed agreement with the group to bring back the young piglets after the big one produces.
- Kalagala Mama Group – Received UGX. 200,000. These women are in goat rearing they previously had 2 goats which they bought with their own savings. With the Matching funds, they bought another 2 goats to make 4 goats in total and all are in- kid this group keeps all the goats with one of their group members. They hope to distribute them once they have all given birth.
- Biwolobo Mama Group – They received UGX. 200,000. The group is into piggery. They used the money to buy four other piglets. They distributed the piglets to four of the members on agreement to return upon giving birth of the big one. They previously had 3 piglets from their savings.
- The other two groups visited are Lyantonde – Kooki Mama Group and Lyantonde – Kaliiro Mama Group. Kooki group is yet to be organised. The leadership is not yet stable so we are still building their ability to stabilise. However, they have made their savings to the tune of about UGX. 70,000 which they are yet to invest into pig rearing. On the other hand, Kaliiro group is into Mushroom growing. The group has so far planted 20 gardens of mushrooms and they expect to start harvesting at the beginning of December.

On general note, all groups are promising and determined to cause change in the lives of their children and households at large. They require bigger monies to be able to make reasonable investments if they are to realise tangible results.

Updating the register of Children with disabilities:

AICOD has embarked on updating its register of children by creating a file for each of the children identified with a photo of the child and the mother or

guardian. This is done in order to look at the child and the parent and to take note of their disabilities. We have so far registered 78 children in all the 5 areas covered by the program.

Follow up on the Water Filters

Of the groups that received the water filters, 2 filters have already been sold, the Kalagala group and Lyantonde -Kaliro. In all groups, the reason given for not being able to sell is the phenomenon of poverty and famine that has hit Lyantonde district and other parts of the country, whereas people would have liked to buy, they prioritise to rather buy food for the families first and then the filter will come later when the famine is over. So far we have 4 pending orders for the filters but they are also dependent on how fast the famine will end.

Important events to note:

During this period, some events worth to be mentioned took place at AICOD.

They include but not limited:

- Represented Lyantonde district Civil Society Organisation at the second Country Assessment Dialogue. Organised by the Africa Peer Review Mechanism and the National Planning Authority. The meeting was held in Igongo Cultural Centre and Country Hotel in Mbarara on 27th September 2016.
- Submitted AICOD's first OVC Report to the Ministry of Gender and Social Development for the previous quarter.
- Visitation of the Uganda Marathon team led by The Community Partnership coordinator held discussions with the AICOD team regarding sustainability of the project. The team also visited the Mushroom pilot project and held talks with the group leader about the feasibility of the mushroom project. Visited also were 2 Mama Groups of Kalagala and Biwolobo.



Visitors sharing moments with Mama groups.

- AICOD has been formally recognized by the ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development as a service provider for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) In this regard; AICOD has been incorporated in the National OVC service providers' directory, and also received all the OVC reporting tools from the ministry through the office of the District Probation and Social Welfare Officer.
- AICOD invited to offer guidance on the accessibility of people with disabilities to the newly constructed nursing school buildings in Lyantonde district.
- The mushroom pilot project was visited to check on the progress of the mushrooms. The mushrooms were ready to be harvested though the yield was not impressive as the gardens never received plenty of water due to the absence of the responsible person for the whole week.



The pilot mushroom gardens

- AICOD held a follow up meeting with the district education department with regard to revitalize the special needs education in all public schools. The meeting was held on 28th October in the office of the district inspector of schools and was attended by 6 people all teachers who trained in special needs, two inspectors of schools and AICOD. Another follow up meeting is scheduled for Friday 18th November.
- Attended a Water filter follow-up meeting in Masaka at the Uganda Marathon office. Three organisations turned up and successes and challenges faced shared. It was agreed that organisation market for the remaining filters in their places of work and coordinate.
- AICOD was invited to attend and present a paper on the state of disabled persons in the district at the district Budget conference which took place on 8th November 2016 at Salama shield conference Center. The presentation was adopted to be included in the new budget framework of the district for the period 2017/2018.

Challenges:

1. The Organisation has no source of income at all. We only expect to receive the first grant from the Uganda marathon which will be a spring board for future development prospects.
2. Lack of transport. The organisation has been depending on a private borrowed vehicle This is a great challenge as most of the work needs vehicle transport to transport children for medical assessment and or rehabilitative therapies.
3. The organisation due to lack of funding has no permanent staff. We rely heavily on our volunteer members to do all the activities. Sometimes we are forced to suspend some field activities when they coincide with the volunteers personal programmes.
4. Most of the children identified are not in school and yet they are of school going age. An urgent plan needs to be made to ensure that they go to school.
5. The organisation lacks major office running costs especially with regard to communication i.e. telephone and internet which are very pertinent in the growing organisation like AICOD. All along these costs have been from the founder's pockets which seem to be drying up.

Way forward:

1. To intensify resource mobilisation for the sustainability of the organisation.
2. Capacity building and support of the Mama groups to make them operational.
3. Conclude discussions with education department to make the children access education.
4. Plan for medical and or professional assessment of the identified children to determine each child's disabilities and needs.
5. To network with other actors in the provision of services to children with disabilities.
6. To secure appropriate means of transport to ease movement and program activities.

Conclusion:

This is a worthwhile undertaking that calls for Multisectoral approach and combined efforts of several stakeholders including welwishers, government institutions, donor agencies, parents and local leaders. Children with disabilities deserve equal treatment like that of able-bodied counterpart. They equally have potentials that once supported, they can become productive and self reliant in future. I call upon all stakeholders to support these children to attain quality livelihoods.

