**PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**Project holder:** Solidarity for Rural Development Organisation (SORUDEO) [www.sorudeo.org.ug](http://www.sorudeo.org.ug)

**Project Title:** Vulnerable Children Education and Care Support (VCECS) Project

**Project location:** Kitgum and Amuru districts, Northern Uganda (Orom and Pabo sub-counties)

**Project duration:** 2 year strategy for the vulnerable children

**Project Contact Person:** Okullu David

Executive Director

Solidarity for Rural Development Organisation (SORUDEO)

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**Project total cost:** $50,000.00 (Fifty thousand US dollars)

**Date of project presentation:** 1st /08/2018

* **Organization Overview**
	+ **Organization’s Objectives**
	+ **Vision**
	+ **Mission**
	+ **Philosophy**
	+ **Motto**
	+ **Keys to Success**

**Organization’s OBJECTIVES**

1. To improve on agricultural production, food production, storage, processing and marketing agricultural produce.
2. To support rural community health care.
3. To promote adequate education to rural community adults and children; and care for orphans and vulnerable children.
4. To improve on forests and environment conservation.
5. To create and boost rural socio-economic development activities.

**Our Vision**

An empowered diligent rural community free from hunger, poverty and violence.

 **Our Mission**

To facilitate the rural people in Northern Uganda to create for themselves a productive, united, healthy, literate, socially and economically empowered, prosperous and peaceful community.

**Our Guiding Philosophy**

The philosophy and experience of SORUDEO is based on the reality that “all people are created equal and unique individually; and that we all have a right to a good: life, health, education, productive environment, economic progress and other basic human needs”.

**Our Motto**

The motto of SORUDEO shall be “Together We Achieve”.

**Keys to Success**

* Diligence and Commitment- from the Board of Directors and SORUDEO as a whole, from the targeted beneficiaries and from the community.
* Sustainability- SORUDEO is striving to create programs that will build capacity and allow the organization to be self-sustaining. Benefitting in general the local community directly is the core of all of our activities.
* Need- Really in this post-war time, the people of Northern Uganda continue to struggle economically and socially amidst trauma, illiteracy and abject poverty with its consequences. Our beliefs are firmly rooted in hard work and innovations for all humanity for poverty reduction, economic growth and social transformation...in the rural areas.
* **Organization Background and History**
	+ **Organizational Structure**
	+ **Legal Establishment**
	+ **History**
	+ **Location and Facilities**

**Organization Background**

**Organizational Structure**

**Board of Directors**

1. Ocaya A. Emmanuel
2. Latigi Lawrence Elvina
3. Akot Irene
4. Ayoo Pauline
5. Julius Odoki
6. Father David Okullu
7. Okello Richard

**Executive Director/Secretary to Board of Directors**

Father David Okullu

**Program Manager**

 Emmanuel Ocen

**Program Division**

Finance- Akot Irene

Education- Ayoo Pauline

Income Generating Projects- Emmanuel Ocen

Administration- Okello Richard

Internal Auditor-Okot John

 **Description of the Organisation (SORUDEO)**

SORUDEO is a self-help, rural-based, non-profit organization registered with the government of Uganda under registration number 11609; S.5914/12001, based in Kitgum district and currently operating in Northern Uganda. SORUDEO started in 2011 as a small, self-help village farmers group called “Solidarity Farmers Association” (SOFA), which aimed to eliminate food insecurity. In 2015 SOFA was transformed into SORUDEO with expanded aims and scope: seeking to eliminate hunger, poverty and violence in rural areas through sustainable agriculture, education, health care, environmental conservation and socio-economic rural development.

SORUDEO has implemented various development projects, namely; “Community Safe Water projects”, which aimed to reduce water-borne diseases and improve sanitation, hygiene and agricultural productivity by assisting a community-led initiative to drill bore-holes. More recent projects include “Training of farmers on modern farming and leadership skills”, “Child sponsorships” through connections to donors to sponsor rural orphans and vulnerable children, “The economic and psychosocial empowerment of rural widows and single mothers”, “integrated community peace building and reconciliation” and the "Integrated Rural Youth initiatives for Employment and Sustainable Livelihood Development project”, which focuses on the needs of the rural youth.

SORUDEO was initiated by a group of farmers and it continues to be community-based, and is guided by the needs and priorities of the beneficiaries. SORUDEO’s projects’ activities are community participatory and are owned by the beneficiaries.

**Location and Contacts**

SORUDEO’s Office is located in Orom Trading Center, Orom Sub County, Kitgum District in Northern Uganda. The postal address shall be P.O. Box 255, Kitgum, Uganda. The office telephone number is 0772 996 476 or (external: +256 772 996 476).

**Project Title:** Vulnerable Children Education and Care Support (VCECS) Project

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

24 years of war have seriously undermined the educational potential of an entire generation of children in Northern Uganda, destroying the region's prospects for future development. At the dawn of peace in 2006; 737 schools in Northern Uganda (60 per cent of the total) were non-functioning; 250,000 children received no education at all. This project is a package of recovery to educate over 1,500 rural orphans and vulnerable children including disabilities children and to empower rural schools.

Furthermore, due to increasing deaths of people as a result of HIV/AIDS, extreme poverty, long term impacts of wars in Northern Uganda and inadequate access to education, so many vulnerable children has been left on the streets and others as orphans wandering in the rural villages with no body to take care of them and giving them support. Most of the vulnerable rural children are left with their poor grandparents and some are left homeless hence ending up going to towns and living on streets.

A UNICEF project document (2003) on orphans and vulnerable children indicates that approximately 2.1 million children in Uganda are on the streets and orphaned and, of these, 80% come from poor families.

The child-headed household trend in Uganda is such that rural areas have 79.9%, of which 49.6% are male-headed and 30.3% are female-headed. The trend in urban areas is that of the 20% child-headed households, 10.5% are male-headed whereas 9.6% are female-headed (Uganda Bureau of Statistics-UBOS, 2000).

Children’s vulnerability to poverty, adversity and HIV/AIDS is largely contextual but also indicative of the widespread situation in protecting them.

Uganda currently has over 2 million orphaned children, the majority of whom were orphaned by HIV/AIDS (*Uganda Poverty Status Report*, 2003). The number is expected to rise in the next decade and this will increase the risk of children turning to the streets, and becoming beggars and thieves.

The rise in the proportion of child-headed households and child laborers means a rise in percentages of the illiterate, early pregnancies, and related consequences such as infant and maternal mortality rates, increased incidence of those who are infected by sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS, and drug abuse. While the Government will continue to increase spending on reproductive health services, it will also be losing valuable human resources. The cycle of child poverty will thus be passed on to next generation and become chronic. It is evident that the HIV/AIDS, lack of education, poverty and impacts of war scourges are increasingly taking its toll on those who should otherwise be enjoying childhood in Uganda.

A large proportion of deprived children have acquired psychopathological behavior, increasingly becoming involved in crime, drug abuse and violence. Many, too, are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and yet they also enter the labor market at very young ages, all of which seriously affects their growth and well-being. Children under this category experience extreme poverty, which is compounded household, community and national poverty.

Our recent needs assessment on child poverty confirmed that children are a vulnerable category of the population, and that policy and institutional frameworks are taking longer to cope with changing sources of crisis and adversity. A link between large/polygamous families with poverty, and the high level of household population (six to twelve members), increases the difficulty of providing adequate coverage and quality of public services such as education, health and housing for families, especially for vulnerable children. Poor health reduces the productive capacity of households and limits children’s access to their basic needs. As a result, vulnerable children are ignored in many development processes, including education.

The magnitude and complexity of the problem of child poverty in Uganda is large and growing, and cannot be ignored when designing national development and poverty reduction strategies. Unfortunately, children and young people continue to be marginalized in spite of interventions, especially where assumptions are made that interventions that address adult and household needs are also good for all children, including boys and girls of school-going and non-school-going ages. This partly explains why child poverty is underrepresented in most studies on poverty in Uganda (Save the Children UK, 2003)

## JUSTIFICATION

The rationale for this project on vulnerable children in abject poverty in Northern Uganda is based on the problems resulting from the fact that children in post war and poverty situation are invisible, yet they constitute a disproportionately large section of the (poor) population. Children are subsumed within the most referred to poverty categories: households, communities and people; yet among these they always occupy a position of least power and influence (Save the Children Fund UK, 2003), and focus tends to concentrate on adult-related poverty. Children are vulnerable to shocks and adversities and, consequently, are hardest hit by poverty. Given that childhood is the most crucial developmental period in an individual’s lifetime, any damage at this stage can lead to a perpetuation of the cycles of poverty, resulting in intergenerational and/or chronic poverty. Interventions such as education empowerment and childcare mitigate against the monumental odds.

## PROGRAMME DISCRIPTION

This programme will be run in Orom and Pabo sub counties in Kitgum and Amuru districts respectively. The beneficiaries who are vulnerable children will be living in homes of their guardians and other people who endeavored to give them care.

The focus of SORUDEO now is to brighten the future of the rural orphans and vulnerable children by providing them with academic materials (like exercise books, pens, school bags, mathematical sets, text books etc), PTA school fees, school uniforms, children sports and games equipments, computers and computer trainings and training of school management in rural schools for effective school management. The project also supports spiritual and psychosocial support to both teachers and children and the renovation of latrines and urinary shelters for good sanitation and hygiene in rural schools.

A study of vulnerable children carried out in the project area indicates that the vulnerable children are suffering from; exploitation and violence, abuse and malnutrition, impacts of wars and HIV/AIDS, poverty, no-one to care for them and no school education. These children are defenseless. They are discriminated against and branded as criminals because of their lifestyles. Some of these children have already experienced violence and negligence. This project target vulnerable children to return to a well-ordered life through education.

In the society, many children are faced with numerous dangers. Girls and boys are forced into prostitution, raped; girls get pregnant against their will. Drugs, hunger and illnesses threaten the lives of rural orphans and vulnerable children including children living with disabilities. The safe place for them is to be in schools.

In the schools, the staff of SORUDEO helps the children to work through their experiences, the injuries they suffered and the broken links with their families. Acting in plays, games and sports give the girls and boys the opportunity to have positive contact with audiences and this reduces their fear of contact with people. Preventative measures are exposed to children to be always careful to attackers that can destroy their life. This project explains the health risks vulnerable children face in the rural areas and try to protect them from HIV/AIDS, impacts of wars, poverty, ignorance, violence and abuse.

## PROGRAMME PURPOSE

The purpose of this programme is to reduce the suffering of orphans and vulnerable children, including children living with disabilities to build their capacity through giving them education, care, love and simple activities to do like computer training so that they become productive and responsible adulthoods in the society.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To provide adequate education to the rural vulnerable children to make them good citizens and have a better future through provision of sponsorship, basic academic materials and computer trainings.
2. To improve health of vulnerable children in rural schools through renovations of latrines and shelters, giving of games and sports equipments.
3. To train school management committees for effective school management to enable rural children get adequate learning, care, love and good school results.
4. To create awareness to the communities on the need to protect and support the vulnerable children as well as protecting their rights through spiritual counseling and psychosocial support.

## COMPARISONS OF STUDIES AND CHILD PERSPECTIVES

Child poverty can be analyzed both subjectively and objectively. Studies such as Save the Children UK 2003 have analyzed child poverty indicators on the basis of how they relate with institutional frameworks through which monitoring would be effected.

## Characteristics of child poverty in key domains

## Personal, emotional and spiritual well-being

•Lack of parental guidance, care and love

• Not having the means to get what one wants

• Inability to solve daily problems, both as a result of lack of money as well as lack of initiative and innovation that results from financial poverty (‘poverty of the mind’)

• Being dependent on others

• Lack of religious grounding

• Discrimination and deprivation

• Alcohol abuse by parents

## Physical well-being

• Lack of proper housing structures and hygienic condition like toilets, latrines and urinary shelers

• Lack of access to health care (Medicine, immunization)

• Vulnerable to diseases, especially HIV/AIDs, typhoid and malaria

## Family and social well-being

• Lack of one or both parents

• Being forced to live on the street because parents cannot support all/any of children

• Family breakdown

• Polygamous family

• Households with many children and with no use of family planning

• Inability to enroll in school or to pursue education on an ongoing basis as a result of school costs, uniform, books, pens, etc.

• Lack of protection from violence, abuse, exploitation

## Financial and material well-being

• Lack of money, clothing, food, accommodation, material goods such as bicycles, books, bedding, cooking utensils

• Lack of land

• Lack of skills

• Lack of opportunities and sources of income

• Child labour exploitation

• Lack of access to transport and communication facilities.

## Political well-being

• Lack of freedom of speech

• Living in a war-affected area

• Lack of security

## Environmental well-being

• Living in an area susceptible to land

•Slides, floods and drought

• Lack of clean and safe water

• Lack of latrines

*Source: Silent Majority: Child Poverty in Uganda*, Save the Children UK, 2002.

**Use of the funds being requested**

100% of the funds being requested will be used for the objectives above and accountability will be timely presented to the donors.

**Conclusion**

Thank you very much in advance for considering our project to save the lives of vulnerable rural children.

Please, make us know if we can provide any additional pieces of information.

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