

Community Recreation Empowerment Vitality (CREV)

Project location: Arua district, Uganda

A. Project summary

Community Recreation Empowerment Vitality (CREV) is a rural-based, multi-dimensional initiative that integrates Early Childhood Development (ECD), Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR), skills development, primary healthcare, recreational services, eco-restoration and eco-tourism within a single, inclusive, and self-sustaining community center powered by renewable energy.

CREV is designed to uplift vulnerable populations including children, persons with disabilities, youth, and women by providing holistic support that fosters health, education, social inclusion, and economic empowerment. Through generating sustainable revenue streams such as accommodation, camping, eco-restoration, cultural tourism, and social enterprise, CREV ensures long-term impact and financial sustainability.

This is an integrated system for restoring environment, regenerating economy, renewing people and catalyzing connected community.

The overarching goal is to enhance the wellbeing, inclusion, and resilience of vulnerable rural communities in Uganda by delivering integrated services and ecosystem restoration within an environmentally responsible, community-driven hub.

B. Problem Statement

Rural communities in Uganda face interlinked challenges of poverty, exclusion, disability stigma, environmental degradation, and lack of essential services. Children with disabilities are often marginalized or hidden due to cultural misconceptions, lacking access to early learning, rehabilitation, and safe recreational spaces. Youth and women have limited access to skills development and economic opportunities, perpetuating cycles of unemployment and poverty.

Simultaneously, the local environment suffers from deforestation, soil erosion, and biodiversity loss, exacerbating climate vulnerabilities such as flooding, droughts, and reduced agricultural productivity. Current efforts focusing only on reducing greenhouse gas emissions fall short; without holistic ecosystem restoration, irreversible climate tipping points threaten both human and natural systems.

CREV responds by creating an inclusive, self-sustaining community hub that not only addresses education, health, and livelihoods but also prioritizes the restoration of biodiverse ecosystems. This integrated approach leverages natural climate regulation processes like the carbon and water cycles to build community resilience, improve environmental quality, and safeguard future generations.

C. Project Goal

To enhance the wellbeing, inclusion, and resilience of vulnerable rural communities in Uganda by delivering integrated services in early childhood development, rehabilitation, vocational skills, eco-restoration, and sustainable livelihoods within an inclusive, self-sustaining community hub.

D. Project Objectives

1. **Improve Early Childhood Development, Rehabilitation, and Health Services**

Provide inclusive, disability-friendly ECD, community-based rehabilitation, and primary healthcare services to at least 5,000 children and 300 persons with disabilities, enhancing access, wellbeing, and social inclusion.

2. **Empower Youth and Women through Vocational and Livelihood Skills**

Train 500+ youth and women in market-relevant vocational, digital, agricultural, and entrepreneurial skills, supporting their transition to sustainable employment and self-employment with access to microfinance and business mentorship.

3. **Restore Ecosystems and Promote Environmental Sustainability**

Implement large-scale eco-restoration interventions including reforestation, permaculture, soil conservation, and environmental education to build climate resilience, improve biodiversity, and enhance natural resource management.

4. **Foster Social Inclusion, Recreation, and Community Cohesion**

Create safe, accessible recreational spaces and cultural platforms that strengthen community bonds, reduce stigma, promote psychosocial wellbeing, and generate sustainable income through eco-tourism and social enterprises.

E. Project Activities

1. **Infrastructure & Construction**

- Acquire 5-10 acres of rural land to develop the CREV hub.
- Construct inclusive facilities including:
 - ✓ Early Childhood Development (ECD) classrooms
 - ✓ Community health and rehabilitation clinic
 - ✓ Vocational training workshops (carpentry, tailoring, ICT, catering, welding)

- ✓ Eco-lodges and guest accommodations for eco-tourism
- ✓ Campsite and outdoor recreational areas
- ✓ Business and social enterprise center
- ✓ Restaurant and artisan market space
- ✓ Administrative offices and storage units
- ✓ Accessible roads, pathways, toilets, and ramps
- ✓ Water supply systems (boreholes, rainwater harvesting tanks)

2. Green Energy & Eco-Restoration

- Install solar panel systems with battery storage to power lighting, ICT equipment, refrigeration, and water pumping.
- Deploy solar-powered water heating and energy-efficient cookstoves for training kitchens and community use.
- Set up backup eco-generator or hybrid energy systems for reliability.
- Implement clean solar-pumped underground water systems.
- Lead comprehensive eco-restoration activities recognizing that restoring biodiverse ecosystems is vital to regulating climate, reducing flooding, drought, and wildfires, improving air and water quality, preserving natural beauty, and supporting human and endangered species health.
- Address the urgent need for holistic ecosystem restoration beyond emissions reduction to prevent irreversible planetary tipping points by revitalizing biosphere-climate interactions such as the carbon and water cycles.

- Activities include:
 - ✓ Reforestation with native tree species to rebuild carbon sinks and stabilize soils
 - ✓ Establishment of permaculture and agroforestry gardens to enhance biodiversity and sustainable food production
 - ✓ Soil conservation and erosion control to protect water catchments and reduce flood risks
 - ✓ Creation of botanical and herbal gardens for species preservation and community health benefits
 - ✓ Environmental education empowering community members to protect and sustainably manage natural resources

3. Education & Skills Training Equipment

- Provide furniture (desks, chairs, whiteboards) and ECD learning materials (books, toys, puzzles, mats).
- Equip vocational training workshops with tailoring machines, fabrics, carpentry tools, safety gear, welding equipment, and agricultural tools/seeds for demonstration gardens.
- Establish a solar-powered ICT lab with laptops, desktops, and printers.
- Equip catering training spaces with appropriate utensils and appliances.

4. Health & Rehabilitation Services

- Outfit the clinic with beds, examination tables, first aid kits, medicines, and rehabilitation tools.
- Supply assistive devices such as wheelchairs, crutches, and walkers.
- Provide physiotherapy mats and equipment for therapy sessions.
- Acquire a motorbike or vehicle for mobile outreach health services and home-based therapy.

5. Social Enterprise & Tourism Development

- Furnish eco-lodges and guest accommodations with beds, mosquito nets, and lighting.
- Provide tents and camping gear for eco-tourism rental services.
- Establish and equip a restaurant kitchen and dining facilities.
- Create a cultural performance space with décor and necessary equipment.
- Develop branding, signage, and promotional materials for tourism.
- Equip artisan workshops with craft tools and materials.
- Host conferences, exhibitions, and cultural events to promote the hub.

6. Community Outreach & Advocacy

- Use a van for community visits, mobile training, and awareness campaigns.
- Produce and distribute awareness materials including posters, flyers, and disability inclusion guides.
- Budget for community mobilization activities such as radio shows and village meetings.
- Provide uniforms and branding materials for staff and outreach teams to enhance visibility.

7. Administration & Operational Needs

- Pay salaries and stipends for teachers, trainers, health workers, managers, and support staff.
- Procure office supplies including computers, internet routers, and stationery.
- Develop and implement monitoring and evaluation tools (data forms, tablets).
- Conduct Training of Trainers (ToT) for local facilitators and peer educators.
- Ensure insurance coverage, safety gear, and emergency preparedness kits are in place.

8. Start-Up Capital & Sustainability Fund

- Provide seed capital for launching social enterprises such as tailoring shops, farming initiatives, cafés, conferences, accommodations and tourism services.
- Establish and support Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to foster community financial empowerment.
- Create a revolving fund or micro-grants program to support youth and women entrepreneurs post-training.
- Build capacity for community center governance and long-term sustainability planning.

F. Expected Outcomes

- Improved access to quality ECD, rehabilitation, and healthcare for vulnerable children and persons with disabilities.
- Enhanced livelihood opportunities and economic empowerment for youth and women.
- Restored ecosystems contributing to climate resilience and improved natural resource management.
- Strengthened community cohesion through inclusive recreational and cultural activities.
- Sustainable, community-managed social enterprises generating income and sustaining project activities.

G. Monitoring & Evaluation

- Baseline, midline, and endline surveys measuring access, inclusion, skills acquisition, health outcomes, environmental indicators, and income levels.
- Regular progress reports and participatory feedback from beneficiaries and stakeholders.
- Use of data collection tools including tablets and digital management systems.

H. Sustainability Plan

- CREV's model integrates income-generating eco-tourism and social enterprises to fund ongoing operations.
- Capacity building for community governance structures ensures local ownership and management.
- Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) provide financial inclusion support for youth and women.
- Renewable energy and eco-restoration reduce operational costs and promote environmental sustainability.



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| Budget USD 650,000 | | | |
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| Budget Category | Item/Activity | Cost (USD) | Narration |
| 1. Infrastructure & Construction | | 345,000 | Major capital investment to establish the CREV hub facilities and infrastructure. |
| - Land acquisition | 5–10 acres rural land | 95,000 | Cost of securing suitable land for the center, including legal fees and surveys. |
| - Construction of facilities | Inclusive ECD classrooms, clinic, workshops, eco-lodges, campsite, admin offices, roads, toilets, water systems | 250,000 | Building durable, accessible structures essential for project activities and community use. |
| 2. Green Energy & Eco-Restoration | | 50,000 | Investment in renewable energy systems and eco-restoration activities for sustainability. |

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| - Solar panel system & batteries | Panels, batteries, installation | 25,000 | To provide reliable off-grid energy powering lighting, ICT, water pumps, and refrigeration. |
| - Backup eco-generator & cookstoves | Hybrid generator, energy-efficient stoves | 10,000 | Ensures energy backup and efficient cooking for training kitchens and community restaurant. |
| - Eco-restoration activities | Tree seedlings, permaculture setup, soil conservation, botanical gardens, community education | 15,000 | Supplies and materials for reforestation, agroforestry, environmental education programs. |
| 3. Education & Skills Training Equipment | | 33,000 | Tools and learning materials supporting ECD and vocational skills development. |
| - Classroom furniture & learning materials | Desks, chairs, whiteboards, ECD toys, books | 10,000 | Essential for providing quality learning environments for children and trainees. |

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| - Vocational training tools | Tailoring machines, carpentry and welding tools, safety gear, catering utensils, agriculture tools and seeds | 20,000 | Equip workshops with professional-grade tools to develop employable skills. |
| - ICT lab setup | Laptops, desktops, printers, solar charging | 5,000 | Provides digital literacy and computer skills training resources. |
| 4. Health & Rehabilitation Equipment | | 20,000 | Medical and therapy supplies to ensure effective rehabilitation and healthcare services. |
| - Clinic furniture & equipment | Beds, examination tables, first aid kits, physiotherapy mats | 10,000 | Furnishing and equipping the clinic for quality patient care and therapy. |
| - Assistive devices | Wheelchairs, crutches, walkers | 7,000 | Mobility aids to support persons with disabilities in the community. |
| - Mobile outreach vehicle | Motorbike or van for outreach health services | 3,000 | Enables mobile health teams to reach remote beneficiaries. |

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| 5. Social Enterprise & Tourism Development | | 25,000 | Investments to develop income-generating activities that sustain the center financially. |
| - Eco-lodge & campsite furniture | Beds, mosquito nets, tents, lighting | 10,000 | Furnishings to accommodate guests and tourists in eco-friendly facilities. |
| - Restaurant & artisan market setup | Kitchen equipment, dining furniture, workshop tools | 10,000 | Equip community enterprises to generate income and promote local crafts and cuisine. |
| - Branding & promotional materials | Signage, brochures, event hosting | 5,000 | Marketing and events to attract tourism and community engagement. |
| 6. Community Outreach & Advocacy | | 65,000 | Activities and materials to mobilize and educate communities about project benefits and inclusion. |

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| - Outreach vehicle & travel costs | Van hire/maintenance and fuel | 57,000 | Supports field visits, community training, and advocacy efforts. |
| - Awareness & IEC materials | Posters, flyers, radio talk shows | 5,000 | Informational materials and media outreach for behavior change and mobilization. |
| - Staff uniforms & branding | Branded apparel and ID badges | 3,000 | For visibility and professionalism during outreach activities. |
| 7. Administration & Operations | | 62,000 | Operational costs essential for smooth running and project management. |
| - Salaries & stipends | Project staff: teachers, health workers, trainers, admin, cooks (24 months) | 40,000 | Competitive compensation to attract and retain qualified personnel. |
| - Office supplies & internet | Computers, stationery, internet, phone | 5,000 | Supports administrative efficiency and communication. |

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| -Office furniture | Chairs, desks, tables | 12,000 | Support administration operations |
| - Monitoring & evaluation tools | Data collection devices, software, training | 3,000 | Ensures rigorous project tracking, reporting, and learning. |
| - Insurance & safety equipment | Emergency kits, safety gear | 2,000 | Risk management for staff and beneficiaries. |
| 8. Start-Up Capital & Sustainability Fund | | 50,000 | Seed funding and capacity building to sustain project activities beyond donor support. |
| - Seed capital for enterprises | Tailoring shops, farming initiatives, cafés, tourism ventures | 20,000 | Provides initial funding for community-run income generating activities. |
| - Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLAs) | Training, seed funds, management | 10,000 | Facilitates financial inclusion and empowerment for women and youth. |



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| - Micro-grants & revolving fund | Support to trained beneficiaries to start businesses | 17,000 | Small grants to promote entrepreneurship and self-reliance. |
| - Governance & sustainability training | Community leadership and management capacity building | 3,000 | Builds skills for long-term local ownership and project sustainability. |

Budget Narration Summary

- **Infrastructure & Construction (34%):** Largest portion allocated to land acquisition and construction of all project physical structures ensuring an accessible, inclusive, and durable community hub.
- **Green Energy & Eco-Restoration (14%):** Investment in renewable energy systems reduces operational costs and carbon footprint, while eco-restoration activities rebuild the natural environment, promote climate resilience, and support biodiversity.
- **Education & Skills Training Equipment (9%):** Equips classrooms and workshops with quality materials and tools to enhance learning and skill acquisition critical for livelihoods.
- **Health & Rehabilitation Equipment (6%):** Furnishes the health clinic and rehabilitation spaces with essential medical supplies and assistive devices to serve vulnerable populations effectively.
- **Social Enterprise & Tourism Development (7%):** Funding for developing income-generating ventures that support project sustainability and create economic opportunities.
- **Community Outreach & Advocacy (4%):** Enables mobilization, awareness campaigns, and community participation critical for inclusion and project ownership.
- **Administration & Operations (14%):** Covers salaries, office supplies, M&E, and safety to ensure smooth, transparent, and effective project management.
- **Start-Up Capital & Sustainability Fund (11%):** Seed funding and capacity building ensure long-term viability of social enterprises and community financial empowerment through VSLAs and micro-grants.

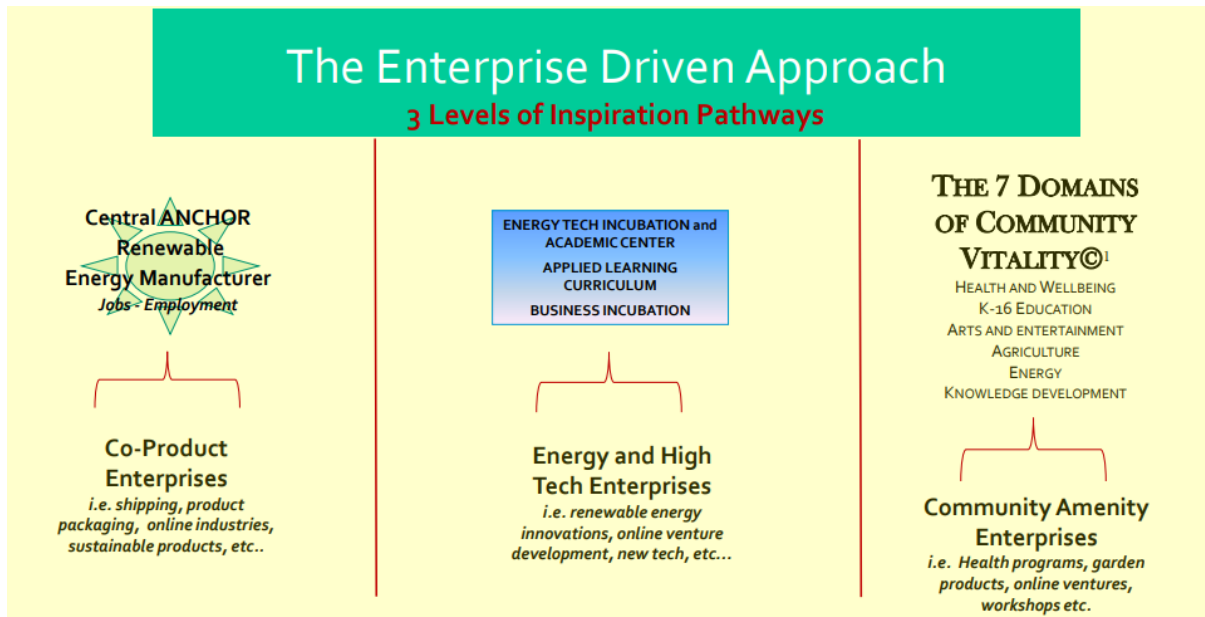
Our Partners Include:

- Investment firms / foundations committed to sustainability
- Renewable energy / energy efficiency technology companies
- Environmental and wildlife preservation organizations
- Real estate developers and housing providers
- International humanitarian response organizations and consulting partners

- Restorative justice organizations
- Schools as centers of community partners
- Senior and assisted living developers
- Municipal and regional revitalization institutions
- Cultural arts revitalization developers and organizations
- Intentional eco-village developers

Model structure





Cottage Housing design illustrations







