



## CCG- Voice Project Annual Report

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<b>Project number (SAP/Adobe Number) *</b>	A-06357-08
<b>Voice Grant Number*</b>	Note: this number can be seen on the first page of your Voice grant agreement. Example: V-1901-XG-EM-101
<b>Project period start date*</b>	January 2022
<b>Project period end date*</b>	December 2023
<b>Country*</b>	Uganda
<b>Grant type*</b>	Influencing

- **Project Progress**

- **Overall progress of the project, Linking and Learning**

- **How do you think the project has progressed in this reporting period? Do you feel that you are on track?**

- The project continued to amplify voices of market women, boda boda riders, youths (both the employed and unemployed youth), women most at risk, local artists and minorities to the local leaders to ensure that their voices are integrated in decision making and implementation processes by the political leadership.
- Citizens have continued to engage with their leaders at community levels to have their voices amplified through the different social media platforms such as twitter, Facebook, youtube, WhatsApp forums, CCG website spaces and Civic Space TV, on several issues ranging from the security, hygiene



and sanitation, human rights abuses, poor road network, increasing crime rate, maternal mortality and general service delivery, among others in the City.

- There was Involvement of city leadership from bottom-up to conduct mobilization and sensitization campaigns for the masses on cleaning and greening Mbale City. It is a city-wide activity that continuously involves cleaning trenches, proper garbage dumping system, tree planting, collecting garbage, and door-to-door sensitization and mobilization aimed at transforming peoples' living environment.
  - We had a zoom discussion with the Mbale City Planer, Secretary Finance and Deputy Mayor Industrial Division on the budget framework and taxation to match it with the National Budget process focusing on overall fiscal strategy, such as revenue projections; the overall resource envelope for the medium-term; overall priority interventions as identified within the National Development Plan and proposed sectoral expenditure plans, including the effectiveness of budget allocation on service delivery engagement, challenges encountered in revenue collection and best practices for tax base expansion.
  - We conduct a series of radio talk shows on the challenges of the police patrol and reported that Mbale City has only one patrol car making it hard to handle emergent issues in the city
  - CCG continues to utilize various digital plat forms like the twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Civic Space TV, CCG website spaces to show case how they have been implementing the activities. Our social media reach has been great, with a balanced engagement. Radio Talk shows have also played a significant role in ensuring that voices are amplified.
- **Looking at what you just shared, how have Rights holders participated in this reporting period?**
    - Rights holders actively participated at all levels of engagement right from project inception meetings to implementation, that is, community dialogues/meetings, capacity building, zoom meetings, radio talk shows and use of social media platforms.
    - Engagement on several challenges faced by rights holders, for example; denial of basic needs and human rights abuses was a wonderful experience to deeply understand the causes and effects



of youth not actively participating in the current labour market and the available political spaces.

- As part of sharing the information about Rights of the rights holders, some rights holders participated in a series of radio talk shows as panelists and discussed several issues/challenges they encounter at community level.
  - Some rights holders sensitised fellow rights holders at community on their needs and rights and the need to be included in the decision-making and implementation process by the political leadership of Mbale City. On the other hand, duty bearers contribute to the public decision-making processes and informing and educating other community members on policy issues.
- **Have you come across any inspiring ideas or new ways of working during this reporting period? Do you plan to use or have you already used any of these in your organization?**
    - Given the current social media landscape, social and mass media platforms are significant in reaching a great number of rights holders in both local and national level. The project has therefore utilized social media platforms and provided a space where both the rights holders and duty bearers share information. Additionally, it has also acted as a channel of feedback.
    - There have been advocacy engagements where community members' voices were recorded amplified on civic space TV, social media and community radios for example the IUIU Radio for increased awareness and impact.
    - Follow-ups with the duty bearers on the identified action plans has been a good idea for the project to yield the good progress. CCG will strive to utilise these ideas going forward to track the progress of the action plans.
    - It was observed that majority of rights holders in Mbale City were more responsive when talked to in local languages such as, Lugisu and Luganda, hence, they got speakers/facilitators who speak the languages.
    - Consultations with different categories/groups of rights holders was very helpful; it is where they knew of some needs and challenges of Mbale City



- Given the current social media landscape, social and mass media platforms are significant in reaching a great number of rights holders in both local and national level. The use of social media platforms provided an ambiance for both the rights holders and duty bearers to share information, also acted as a channel of receiving feedback from these three groups. This made them feel connected to the project and updated.
  - We have discussed a lot of amazing ideas and inputs that will most probably help our campaign activities such as continuous community engagements through community self-led influencing and civic education sensitization programs at the grass root level with a team of local civic educators in Mbale who will carry out continuous grass root level advocacy for propelling communities into self- led influencing and mindset change.
  - The groups also envision that if the situation permits, we also want to conduct offline campaigns such as School Caravans to engage students and normalize the discussion school gangs in schools and universities.
  - Advocacy engagements where community members' voices were recorded amplified on civic space TV, social media and community radios for example the IUIU Radio for increased awareness and impact.
  - Follow-ups with the duty bearers on the identified action plans has been a good idea for the project to yield the good progress. CCG will strive to utilise these ideas going forward to track the progress of the action plans.
- **As grantee, you have had the opportunity to engage in Linking and Learning. If you did so, how do you feel about it?**
- We attended the Voice Linking and Learning virtual meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 with a sole purpose of tracking the progress of the activity implementation, following up on the linking and learning needs such as; monitoring and evaluation, engagement with fellow grantees and documentation support. It is from these meetings that we were challenged to think of a learning question that we wanted to address during and after the project implementation.
  - As an organisation, we feel great about the linking and learning practice of bringing many grantees together to share ideas. The



Community of Practice (COP) is even more interactive that it makes us grantees have ideas shared and provides a platform for learning.

- **What can Voice do differently to facilitate connections and engagements between grantees as well as between grantees and other stakeholders?**

- Facilitating more learning exchange visits among grantees to document best practices and be able to apply them back in their respective countries/organisations during project implementation.
- Hosting more regular physical workshops to encourage knowledge sharing and more practical peer to peer support.

- **Making the voices of rights holders heard**

- **Please share anything that you are proud of or what has surprised you regarding the effect your project has on the rights holder groups and its concerned people/communities.**

- There was an improvement in the level of understanding Mbale City governance issues. The rights holders are now empowered to have a say over matter that affect their lives. For example, they are consulted on the budget process before it is approved by the City Council, involved on the priority projects.
- The project provided for an opportunity for duty bearers to contribute to the public decision-making processes and informing and educating other community members on policy issues that impacts their everyday lives. Through feedback, duty bearers listened and in turn demonstrated the impact of right holders' involvement and strengthened the relationships between duty bearers and rights holders.
- The right holders have gained fame in standing out of the crown to voice up their issues for instance, they have themselves held radio programs and calling in, have had many other right holders developing interest of becoming part of the groups in the groups. More youth are engaged in influencing various policies at different levels of leadership than before.
- The right holders gained confidence to amplify their views to the duty bearers. They are now able to attend meetings with high-ranking officials of the city like the Resident City Commissioner, the city



mayor, city speaker, and other city authorities. Their needs were noted and CCG will follow up on the actions. For example, an incident where the PWDs during a rights holder's workshop said that their land was grabbed by some people in Mbale City and the Deputy Mayor Industrial City pledged to follow up with the land board.

- **How are you sharing these successes, learnings and/or interesting stories arising from the project?**

- We share these successes and interesting stories on our social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp group for rights holders and the WhatsApp group that we share with fellow grantees) and the Linking and Learning platform.
- Some of the success stories on particular topics are also shared with our Linking and Learning facilitators to be published in the Voice News Letter and for use during the virtual Linking and Learning meetings.
- Recordings of the stories, training sessions and short clips are uploaded on the Civic Space TV YouTube channel.

- **Changes in context for your organisation and its rights holder groups**

Is there anything happening or about to happen (politically, economically, socially, environmentally) in the context of your country, that is affecting your organisation, project and/or its concerned people/communities? How do these changes influence the way you plan to continue implementing the project?

- Heavy rains within Mbale City had affected access/movements to some areas for community engagements. However, we were quick to involve community leaders and rights holders in media trainings to be able to use zoom meetings, in case one is not able to physically reach a particular venue. CCG plans to make provisions for more data refunds in the next budgets and continue to support rights holders to make more use of media advocacy, despite their locations.



- **Update on project finances**

Are there any significant variances in your project spending (planned versus actuals) during the reporting period? Please explain.

Is your organisation facing any financial challenges related to this project? Did the latest transfer cover the activities during the reporting period?

- **Your feedback to Voice**

**What feedback do you want to share with Voice? How can we support you better?**

- Upholding the Community of practice approach and encouraging grantees to ask learning questions and finding solutions will help CCG devise solutions to many community challenges.

- **Any other business and rounding off the conversation**

**Is there anything else you want to discuss?**

- Voice, linking and learning teams are very supportive.
- Duty bearers and rights holders are looking forward to more conversations like this to share struggles and small wins.
- Emphasis on visibility of the project is key and has made CCG shine. The use of social media platforms, mass media and community engagements brought out the visibility clearly during project implementation.
- Working closely with the Police Community Liaison's Officer eases mobilization of both duty bearers and right holders for engagements

**Update on project finances**

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- **Financial Report**

Total project budget approved / contract amount (in EUR)\*

Total amount of funds received from Voice (in EUR)\*



Total expenses (up to and including the reporting period) (in EUR)\*

• **Project Results**

Please choose one or more thematic areas of impact that your project is contributing to in this reporting period.\* Select

Please choose one or more outcome areas of that your project is contributing to in this reporting period\* Select

• **Your Feedback**

In a scale from 1 to 5, how would you rate Voice teams in terms of their responsiveness to your queries?\*

- 1 = excellent
- 2 = good
- 3 = I don't have an option at this point
- 4 = Okay, but there is still a lot of room for improvement
- 5 = Disappointing

In a scale from 1 to 5, how would you rate Voice teams in terms of your request for support?\*

- 1 = excellent
- 2 = good
- 3 = I don't have an option at this point
- 4 = Okay, but there is still a lot of room for improvement
- 5 = Disappointing

Does you have any feedback for Voice, any suggestions to improve our collaboration?

Is there anything else you want to discuss?

Please list together any action point and/or commitment made between Voice and the grantee



- **Harvesting Change**

Have you observed any changes in social actors outside of your organisation that your project is contributing to?\*

Yes

Please describe in one-two sentences the change in the social actor – who changed what, when and where. If you need to add facts to explain the outcome so that an outsider can fully understand and appreciate the change, you can add more sentences, but you need to be concise. Please note that a change could also contribute negatively. Such changes should also be described.

For the last 11 months, Boola Shaban the Youth Chairperson of People with Disabilities (PWDs) in Mbale City and as a result, they have been allocated lock ups for Business in Mbale Main Market by Mbale City leadership which has improved their livelihoods.

Is the change relevant to your project’s overall vision and objectives? Or does it contribute to network/coalition building, and if so, how?\*

Before project implementation, marginalized groups in Mbale City were struggling to understand their rights and obligations because of the shrinking civic space that made it difficult/hard to create avenues for discussion for change to occur.  
The outcome enables local/marginalised groups amplify their voices and ensure that their voices are integrated in decision making and implementation processes by the leadership.  
It enables local communities and leaders understand their rights and obligations. Now more ever, communities are relying on the project to support them to rights and obligations are respected and that makes us that much more important

Please describe which activities of your organisation contributed to this outcome. This contribution can be direct or indirect, small or large, intended or unintended. In a paragraph or maximum two, describe what was done, by whom, when and where as specifically as possible.\*

The initial orientation of local communities and local leaders about the project objectives, goal, expected out comes, activities and the rights and responsibilities of leaders was a huge milestone to their



current understanding of the project. The oriented groups cascade information to their fellow communities' groups.

Continued strategic engagements of rights holders both at community/grass root level that enable rights holders voice their views and needs for duty bearers to act.

Social and mass media engagements. Everyone who is affected by an issue that impacts their community has a say in the decision making around it.

Radio Talks shows. This is important because many people listen to radio programs within the City. People call-in to discuss various issues that affect them in their localities.

Please share with us any type of evidence (e.g. articles, links to online publications, minutes of meetings, pictures, videos etc) to support your statement, the relevance of this change and your contribution.\*

<b>File Upload*</b> <b>Drag and drop files here or browse files</b>	Please upload here the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Any example photos that are related to the implementation of your project</li><li>- Any example videos that are related to the implementation of your project</li><li>- Project Results</li><li>- Financial Report</li></ul>
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