

MENGO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LINK (MYDEL)

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Project:
Relocation and Extension of MYDEL's Soccer Academy
and Boys Home

Information about MYDEL

Mengo Youth Development Link (MYDEL) is a non-governmental organization based in Kampala, Uganda. It was funded in 2001 as an initiative to face the outbreaks of cholera and Ebola by hygiene and health sensitization of the affected people. Working closely with the community, MYDEL became aware of other community challenges such as the high rate of HIV/Aids, unemployment, drug abuse, prostitution and domestic violence. Thus its focus shifted towards improving the life situations of the most vulnerable members of society, especially children and youths. By now, MYDEL has several projects under its roof.

Information about the Intended Project

Situational Analysis

MYDEL is mainly working with people from the Mengo-Kisenyi area. More than 40 000 people are living in this area including more than 32 000 young people under the age of 15. These people are mainly low-income families which moved from rural areas to the capital city of Uganda in hope to find a job and improve their living conditions, including refugees from Rwanda, Somalia and DR Congo. According to the Youth Friendly Services Report 2014 their daily lives are marked by challenges including high rates of HIV/Aids, drug abuse, prostitution, child abuse, domestic violence and marginalization of people with disabilities). Additionally, there is a high rate of unemployment in the community which forces 70% of families to live with less than \$1 per day. As a result, access to education is impossible for 50% of families mainly due to the obligatory school fees.

Youths in the Mengo-Kisenyi area district are especially affected and face specific challenges such as life threatening health risks related to unwanted pregnancies, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections and domestic violence¹. Therefore many children end up homeless on the streets without any adult caretaker and access to the education system. One of the only possibilities to get into school is by receiving sponsorship due to talent (e.g. in sports such as soccer).

One of MYDEL's projects is the Soccer Academy and Boys Home in the Mengo-Kisenyi area² which was established in 2009. It targets talented street children and tries to reintegrate them into the formal education system by developing their talent. The regular training keeps them busy in their free time and away from negative slum influences and gives them the opportunity to get an educational sponsorship due to their soccer skills.

However, the space and opportunities of the current Boys Home are limited and it has reached its capacity in the current plant. Thus, MYDEL plans to expand the Soccer Academy and Boys Home. Inspired by a similar project in the Kampala area, MYDEL wants to build a club house with a corresponding soccer field to ensure and increase the Soccer Academy's impact and effectiveness in the future.

Achievements and Challenges of the Soccer Academy/Boys Home

Becoming aware of the challenges mentioned above, MYDEL introduced its Soccer Academy and Boys Home in 2009. It aims to minimize the negative slum influence in

1 Analysis on key informant stake holders interviews on youth friendly services report 2014.

2 The Mengo and Kisenyi area includes the parishes Mengo, Kisenyi 1, Kisenyi 2 and Kisenyi 3.

the children's lives and also to give them the opportunity to practice their soccer skills in order to receive sponsorship for education. The place is home for some kids during the whole year and serves as a training camp during the holidays for those already in school. Due to this program 87 received a sponsorship and more than 145 young people are actively playing from different clubs both local and International clubs.

However, the limited space and resources does not enable the Soccer Academy to accommodate more than the currently 17 kids during the training camps and 5 during the whole year. Currently we accommodate 20 boys in our one room house in Mengo Kisenyi during holidays but it is time to upgrade our program and get a new place in which we can accommodate the children more safe and also a football pitch in the same area plus also admit the new talents at MYDELs soccer Academy.

The place and the soccer fields are also only rented which limits the financial possibilities of the project and makes it dependent on external funding. Another challenge is the condition of the currently used soccer fields which are sometimes occupied or not usable (e.g. due to flooding) what makes training impossible.

This is why MYDEL is currently seeking an opportunity to make the project more sustainable and less dependent on annual funding by private donors.

Detailed Project Information

Target group: The project aims to work with the following target group: a minimum of 120 talented boys from the Mengo-Kisenyi area in Kampala with no or only little financial resources.

Aims: The main aim of the project is to improve the possibilities and future living conditions of young boys from Mengo-Kisenyi area due to developing of their talent in soccer and to increase the capacity of the current project and accommodate more young boys from slum area by:

- Building a soccer field and a club house which can accommodate and train least 120 kids during the Summer Camp and a minimum of 20 kids for the whole year;
- Creating a year-round club which can create income (e.g. due to renting out the venue to third parties) that can pay all expenses needed for the project (e.g. food, soccer equipment, water, electricity and maintenance);

Expected output: The implementation of the project will lead to the following output:

- New soccer field and club house/dormitory for at least 120 kids during summer and at least 20 for the rest of the year;
- Jobs that can be filled by former participants of the project (e.g. as trainers, housekeepers, caretakers);
- Income due to renting out the place, enough for all expenses of the project and additional support to other MYDEL projects (e.g. financing sport lessons in Nansana School);

Expected Impact: A successful implementation of the suggested project will enable MYDEL to:

- Improve the living situation of a greater number of talented but vulnerable kids in the Mengo-Kisenyi area by offering a safe place to stay during the holidays for the kids attending school and during the whole year for the neediest;

- Increase the chances of sponsorship for education through soccer training (especially in form of the Soccer Camp during the holidays) due to the ensured access to soccer fields;
- Create job opportunities for former attendants of the Soccer Academy (e.g. as caretakers, soccer trainers, housekeepers) to sustainably improve their living conditions and financial resources;
- Ensure enough income through renting out the venue to third parties to pay for all running costs of the Soccer Academy/Boys Home and also create additional income which can be used for other MYDEL projects;

Sustainability of the Project

Financial Sustainability: Long-term financing of the Center will be assured by incomes generated through renting out the place to third parties (e.g. other schools that will use the field for their sport lessons, events) and additionally the current costs for renting the soccer field/Boys Home will not apply anymore.

Maintenance: The maintenance of the place will be guaranteed by local employees (e.g. former participants of the project) who will take care of the place and the events going on in the venue.