

THE POWER OF BOOKS

By Esther Kyazike Ginda, KYC CEO

The first years of life are crucial to a child's lifelong growth and development. Brain research has shown that nurturing in the earliest years is crucial for emotional and social as well as intellectual development. Children develop their sense of trust and attachment very early in life as well as begin to develop their cognitive and pre-literacy skills (*SECTAN, WWW.FINEBYNINE.ORG*).

KYC believes in the Power Of Books in contributing to children's lifelong learning and so does Stichting Biblionef Nederland with whom it partnered to conduct a pilot teacher training workshop on 12th – 13th December 2016. The workshop which aimed at developing library skills among the participants attracted 11 schools which are also partners of Biblionef.



The workshop sessions included presentations, practical group work, role plays and videos all intended to inspire participants to know the importance of books and to promote reading in their schools.

We had a 2 day fulfilling learning experience. Out of the 22 participants, 97% agree that they gained knowledge and skills on how to integrate reading into teaching, support pupils'

learning as they use books, starting and managing a school library. All of the participants developed actions plans on how they would promote reading in their respective schools in the following year. A follow up on the planned activities shall be done by KYC. 77% of the participants ranked the promotion of reading in classroom as the most important followed by increasing the use of books in the classrooms among the teachers and learners and then curriculum reform and development.

On behalf of KYC management, I do extend our sincere appreciation to Stichting Biblionef for the partnership in promoting reading in Uganda. We look forward to continue working with you in the Power of Books campaign. Happy New Year to you all ♦

KYC WINS UYONET'S Y2Y FUND

KYC is among the 10 member organizations that successfully competed for Uganda Youth Network (UYONET)'s Youth to Youth (Y2Y) small fund. With the fund, KYC shall implement a project aimed at enhancing the capacity of its library for better work performance through;

- i) integration of ICT in order to support library services and overall administration; KYC will introduce e-library services, subscribe to a faster internet service provider to provide internet services.

- ii) improvement of the library reception and work station through procurement of a user friendly staff counter.

- iii) development of KYC communication materials and media messages that will be used to promote its services and advocate for support from the community and government.
- iv) completion of re-developing KYC website.

In addition, two KYC staff attended a 3day Grants management training in November 2016. This is done to enable recipient organizations to manage the fund well. ♦

Kawempe Youth Centre Newsletter

THE LAUNCH THAT NEVER WAS

By Cathy Amia

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development scheduled the launch of the National Youth Policy for Friday, 16th December 2016; however, the event seriously flopped! Through Uganda Youth Network (UYONET), KYC was invited to exhibit its work in addition to attending the launch.



The Prime Minister represented the President of Uganda as the Guest of honor. This, in addition to the absence of some of the youth leaders and representatives made the youth very unhappy. It eventually led to the protest against the launch of the policy resulting into a very unsuccessful event.

KYC shared a copy of the policy with some of the youth and local leaders and below are some of the responses about the policy and its development;

I didn't even know that a youth policy existed! Were the youth involved in the policy making process? I got the opportunity of reading a copy of the policy; however, it is a very shallow document. It lacks important components on issues that affect the youth most; Is this policy as a result of country-wide youth consultation through various development actions at community, national and

international levels?" remarked Timothy, a youth from Kizza zone.

"First of all, who came up with that policy? I was not aware about it at all," says Christine, a youth from Mpererwe.

"Our voices were left out; the policy doesn't capture real solutions to our current development needs. We need capital to invest in our enterprises, where do we go to?" lamented Joyce a saloon owner in Kawempe!

"I wasn't aware about the launch of the youth policy. I didn't hear about any meetings that sat to review it. I only watched the flop on the news on Friday night." Says Mr. Sonko Godfrey, LC 1 Chairman Kizza zone where KYC is located.

KYC CEO had this to say, "In 2014, the Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development called upon Members states of the United Nations to acknowledge that access to information and the skills to use it effectively are required for sustainable development. If this is so for Uganda, then increasing access to information should also be one of the priorities in the policy to support sustainable development and improvement of people's lives. Youth need timely and relevant information for their personal development among other things". I also suggest that the Ministry borrows a leaf from UYONET on how the youth manifesto was developed in 2010 in consultation with the youth and youth organizations nationwide. ♦

1ST DEC 2016: WORLD AIDS DAY

By Bulyaba Ruth

1st December is always a remarkable day in the world. In reference to the year's theme, KYC organized a mini activity in which the youth were sensitized about HIV/AIDS. Youth were also encouraged to frequently go for HIV testing and counseling in order to be certain about their statuses. ♦

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