

Capacity Building for Young People with Disabilities In Uganda



Mobilization of youth with disabilities, including them in decision making and forming a national committee for young people with disabilities to act as their voice and being consulted on key areas / issues which have to do with disabled youth.

Objectives

Youth with disabilities were inadequately mobilized to participate in the development process and contribute to decision making. Youth with disabilities are among the most vulnerable members of society. There was need to mobilize these youth, build their confidence, equip them with the necessary skills to enable them be self sustaining. The initiative was further aimed at contributing to poverty alleviation among young people with disabilities by empowering them in lobbying and advocacy skills, build they capacities to actively participate in the development process and prepare them for a self sustaining future.

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Young people

As a result of the project, many youth with disabilities have come out and have representation in many structures of the government and other organizations. Their capacities have been built by providing them with relevant knowledge and skills that enabled them increase their level of participation in social, economic and political activities for their benefit. As a result, many disabled young people are living independently. They engage in decision making, in business ventures / income generating activities to mention a few. A national committee for youth with disabilities was formed and it is consulted on key issues which have to do with disabled youth. Therefore the once discriminated disabled youth in society have been empowered to advocate for their rights and are to some extent enjoying better standards of living.

Additional information

People with disabilities, despite being the largest minority groups are largely ignored. Youth with disabilities are amongst the most marginalized and poorest of the world's youth. It should be noted that development cannot be achieved if certain categories / groups of people are left out. The forgotten groups will remain as a "sickness" to development and will infect others if that sickness is not treated – hence being an obstacle to development. Youth with disabilities are characterized by low levels of education, lack of confidence, discrimination, ill health, powerlessness to mention a few. There are so many misconceptions about the potential of youth with disabilities to participate in social, economic and political activities. Many youth in Africa vary in their characteristics and needs.

