

Project Inception Report

Project Title: *East African Community of Practice for SDG 4.7*

Partner Organization: Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (UNATCOM)

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Pilot Phase Period: *August to November 2022*

Inception Report Period: 1st July –31st August 2022

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1. Introduction:

Following the Sub-regional Meeting of East African National Commissions for UNESCO in 2020, the Ugandan National Commission for UNESCO in partnership with German Commission for UNESCO, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO and partner NGOs are piloting a cooperation project to establish a community of practice for achieving SDG 4.7 within the Eastern African Community. The pilot project focuses on establishing a community of practice for SDG 4.7 in Uganda and Kenya in the period four (4) months (August –November) 2022. The pilot phase will lay the foundation for possible further activities within the area of East Africa.

2: Project Scope:

2.1 Overall Statement of Scope for SDG 4.7:

By 2030, ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

2.2 Project Scope for the East African Community of Practice for SDG 4.7:

By 2023, provide a flexible model for collaborative networking for the purpose of mutual learning, mainstreaming and harmonization of approaches to SDG 4.7 in the region targeting UNESCO National Commissions (NATCOMs) and their school networks in six East African countries (Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda) with one respective national lead NGO each.

The East African Community of Practice is to enable East African partners to benefit from increased cooperation, knowledge exchange, and sharing of expertise and resources, develop a concerted approach on shared contexts, agendas, and challenges (including Covid-19 recovery), and provide new data for monitoring of SDG 4.7 progress in the region. School based approaches to ESD (ASPnet, Eco-Schools and ELIMU for the Goals) which have been tested, spearheaded and refined by NATCOMs and partner NGOs are to inform development of the proposed East African Community of Practice as a model for regional collaboration; and possibly inspire other regions.

2.3 Pilot Project Scope objectives :

By end of 2022, ensure sharing of national challenges amongst Kenya and Uganda and taking collective action on priority themes to support achievement of SDG 4.7 amongst project partners in both counties, while documenting and sharing good practices, harmonizing approaches and standards, and deepening the ESD knowledge and expertise to fully support the East African context and achievement of the SDGs and UNESCO's framework ESD for 2030.

Ensure increased government partnership between Uganda and Kenya, and based on National consensus, develop and pursue projects such as the development of criteria, twinning, micro projects and context specific education tools and resources for 2 pilot schools to support priority themes according to the SDGs and UNESCO's ESD framework 2030.

Collaboratively create appropriate monitoring and evaluation tools to measure implementation of SDG 4.7 in Uganda and Kenya, and raise the profile of ESD and SDG 4.7 in both countries amongst strategic partners and funding bodies, and source short-term and long-term sponsorship for relevant programmes in both countries.

2.3.1 Geographical scope:

The project will be covering 2 countries (Kenya and Uganda) for the pilot Phase, and (Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi and Tanzania) for the scale up phase.

The project will be working with 2 partners from each country, AROCHA Uganda from Uganda and Kenya Organisation for Environmental Education (KOEE) –Kenya.

Schools (project beneficiaries) that have been selected from both countries respectively are Kitezi primary school -Uganda and Muthurwa Primary school –Kenya

2.3.2 Time scope:

The pilot phase of the project will take a period of 4 months (August 2022-November 2022)

3. Inception Phase Implementation Status:

3.1 Overall Status for Inception Phase Implementation Timeframe:

	Delayed	Partially delayed	As expected	Partially Ahead	Ahead
Status of inception phase implementation vis-à-vis Project Implementation Plan		✓			

3.2 Inception Implementation Status on the Expected Project Results:

Result I: NATCOMs engaged in each of the 6 targeted countries starting with 2 pilot countries

Main activities completed under <u>Result I:</u>	
2 member countries (Uganda and Kenya) NATCOMS have been effectively engaged through online consultative meetings on establishment of the EA CoP for SDG 4.7	
Most significant outputs observed under <u>Result I:</u>	
A project whatsapp group for the two countries was established and online –zoom meeting minutes were recorded for further reference.	
Key contributions to reaching the Result Target for 2022	
<i>Number of countries engaged during the inception phase:</i>	- 6 NATCOMs (Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi and Uganda) have been contacted during the inception phase and updated on project inception and all the 6 NATCOMs expressed interest in the project. -During the online inception meeting, 3 NATCOMS (Kenya, and Malawi and Uganda) were taken through the project concept for in-depth appreciation, and members input for further development of the project was captured and incorporated in the pilot project. <i>(broadening scope of themes to suit SDG 4.7 INDICATORS</i>
Key lessons learnt in relation to <u>Result I:</u>	
<i>What are the existing potential opportunities in engaging / partnering with other NATCOMs for establishment of the EA CoP for SDG 4.7?</i>	Clarity on project objectives and implementation approach to establish a regional CoP for SDG 4.7 is a potential opportunity for NATCOMs to embrace and support the project. <i>(Similar projects, and approaches, partnership for the goals, identify schools with same challenges context NGOs similar objectives, makes it easier for other NATCOMS to collaborative)</i>

<i>(What are the hindrances?)</i>	Communication gaps are likely to hinder effective engagement and uptake of the project.
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Result 2: 6 Lead NGOs identified and engaged starting with 2 NGOs in 2 pilot countries

Main activities completed under <u>Result 2:</u>	
2 lead NGOs namely KOOE for Kenya and AROCHA Uganda, were identified and taken through the project concept.	
Most significant outputs observed under <u>Result 2:</u>	
The 2 identified NGOs were added on the project whatsapp group of the two countries, and the members participated in online –zoom meetings	
Key contributions to reaching the Result Target for 2022	
The two identified NGOs have tested and spearheaded / participated in implementation of Sustainable Schools including Eco-Schools and Green Schools / ELIMU for SDGs-Sustainable Schools in their respective countries.	
<i>Number of NGOs reached in the inception phase:</i>	3 NGOs namely; KOOE, AROCHA Uganda and CECOD were contacted. Considering that CECOD was already a member of the Project Central Coordinating Committee, AROCHA Uganda was taken up.
Key/major learnings in relation to achievements of <u>Result 2</u>	
<i>What motivates/discourages NGOs to be engaged in establishing the EA CoP for SDG 4.7?</i>	Participation in implementation of projects which are in line with their mandate and are complimenting their ongoing projects motivates NGOs to be engaged in establishment of a community of practice.

Result 3: Draft cooperation agreements produced and circulated

Main activities completed under <u>Result 3:</u>	
Cooperation Agreements between KNATCOMs and UNATCOM; Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) between NATCOMs and NGOs in both countries; and a Contract between UNATCOM and the Technical Associate for part time action on the EA CoP for SDG 4.7 were drafted and circulated.	
Most significant outputs observed under <u>Result 3:</u>	
Cooperation Agreements between KNATCOMs and UNATCOM; Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) between NATCOMs and NGOs in both countries; and the Contract between UNATCOM and the Technical Associate for part time action on the EA CoP for SDG 4.7 were all signed.	

Key contributions to reaching the Result Target for 2022	
High level commitment among project partners will contribute to achievement of the result target by end of 2022	
Key/major learnings in relation to the achievement of <u>Result 3:</u>	
<i>What supports the endorsement of cooperation agreements and MoUs?</i>	Clarity on roles and responsibilities of each party supports the endorsement of cooperation agreements and MoUs among partners.

Result 4: Key project themes and the sustainable schools selection checklist developed

Main activities completed under <u>Result 4:</u>	
Key project themes and the sustainable schools checklist were developed and shared during the inception meeting, discussed and agreed upon by both countries.	
Most significant outputs observed under <u>Result 4:</u>	
The agreed upon themes include:	
Theme 1: <i>Participatory Governance in Sustainable Schools with Gender Sensitivity and Peace Education as integral parts</i>	
Theme 2: <i>Competence development for Integrated Climate Change Response and life style improvement in sustainable schools</i>	
Theme 3: <i>National and Regional partnerships for SDGs, networking and linkages with Global Citizenship Education as an integral part.</i>	
Key contributions to reaching the Result Target for 2022	
Similar context and experience on real life issues among the two countries will contribute to achievement of the result target by end of 2022	
Key/major learnings in relation to the achievement of <u>Result 4:</u>	
<i>What supports the agreement on key themes among partners?</i>	Similar context and experience on real life issues affecting their quality of life

Result 5: Stakeholder analysis and consultation

Main activities completed under <u>Result 5:</u>	
Stakeholder mapping tool to collect all the necessary data from key stakeholders was developed and circulated. Secondary research was carried out and relevant information on more stakeholders from both countries was generated, processes and analyzed.	

Most significant outputs observed under <u>Result 5:</u>	
A stakeholder analysis matrix was developed, applied and the stakeholder analysis findings shared to inform the establishment of thematic working groups on SDG 4.7 in both countries.	
Key contributions to reaching the Result Target for 2022	
Stakeholders' willingness to fill and send back the mapping tool, availability and easy access of relevant formation about key stakeholders online.	
Key/major learnings in relation to the achievement of <u>Result 5:</u>	
<i>What motivates stakeholders to fill the mapping tool and send it back in time?</i> <i>(challenge)</i>	<p>Stakeholder appreciation of tool rationale coupled with clarity and user-friendliness of the tool motivates stakeholders to fill the tool and send it back in time</p> <p>Some stakeholders due to lack of time , may not be able to fill in the stakeholder mapping questionnaire</p>

Result 6: 2 Pilot Sustainable Schools from each country selected

Main activities completed under <u>Result 6:</u>	
2 schools from each country were identified and evaluated. 1 School from each country was finally selected.	
Most significant outputs observed under <u>Result 6:</u>	
Kitezi primary school from-Uganda and Muthurwa Primary School from Kenya were selected.	
Key contributions to reaching the Result Target for 2022	
Selection of schools basing on their past experience and performance in ESD related projects and their accessibility for effective monitoring and follow-up will contribute to reaching result target for 2022	

Result 7: Establishment of an online communication Platform

Main activities completed under <u>Result 7:</u>	
<p>A web page was created for regular updates and sharing of the project information (case stories, blogs , documents) and social media pages(Twitter and Facebook) were created too For sharing project progress.</p> <p>A whatsapp group has also been created where all members are part.</p>	
Most significant outputs observed under <u>Result 7:</u>	
<p>Web pages, Social media handles and whatsapp group for the project created</p> <p>Twitter : @unescoug</p> <p>Facebook: Uganda National Commission for unesco/icesco</p> <p>YouTube: Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (UNATCOM)</p>	

A page has been created on the UNATCOM website for East African Community of Practice (CoP) project and can be accessed through UNATCOM website (www.unesco-uganda.ug) under ongoing projects or can be accessed using the link below;

<https://unesco-uganda.ug/east-african-community-of-practice-cop-for-sdg-4-7/>

Key contributions to reaching the Result Target for 2022

Availability of technical support staff willing to run the webpage and social media pages of the project.

Key/major learnings in relation to the achievement of Result 7:

What motivates stakeholders to join the platforms?

Easy access to information on time and sharing of information.

4. Assessment of Implementation Conditions

The implementation condition				
	Highly enabling	Generally enabling	Somewhat disabling	Strongly disabling
CRITERIA	The operating context was highly enabling (a good level of political support for the agenda and/or absence of political unrest/interference/armed conflict/ disaster). The programme did not experience any significant interference or disruption due to external factors.	The operating context was generally enabling. There was an ongoing risk of interference which somewhat affected operations and results, but no significant disruption.	The operating context was somewhat disabling with general opposition to the agenda and/or some political unrest/interference/armed conflict/disaster, which somewhat disrupted the operations and results.	Strong political resistance/unrest/interference/armed conflict/disaster significantly disrupted the intervention and prevented the programme operation.
RATING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Due to the delay in identifying a consultant , some activities in the inception phase were not completed in time. The 2 online working groups have not yet been established due to delays in stakeholder’s submission of the mapping tool.				

5. General implementation assessment

Inception Phase Achievements
Despite the slight disruption by the general elections in Kenya which halted implementation of some activities, the inception phase has on overall been implemented as planned and has archived the intended results.
Challenges
Inflation has impacted the project as most supplies have become more expensive than previously budgeted.
Planned adjustments and mitigation measures
The project will focus on increased partnerships /resource mobilization for project co-funding.

6. Financial Management

Financial management
The financial report is attached

7. Organizational Changes

Organizational Development and Changes
With DUK approval, the project contracted a Technical Associate at 25% time to undertake key project assignments as opposed to hiring external consultants whose cost could not be met by the project budget.

8: Annexes

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1. Stakeholder Matrix
 2. Financial Report
 3. Copies of Cooperation Agreements
 4. School selection checklist
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