



**Community Needs Assessment Form**  
**13<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**Explanation:** Matching Grant applications requesting US\$25,001 or above must include a community needs assessment. Please provide detailed answers to the following questions. The boxes will expand as you type. Attach this completed form to the Matching Grant application.

**1. Name of community:** SIRIBA VILLAGE, KIRYANDONGO DISTRICT

**2. Describe the benefiting community. Include any relevant statistics as well as geographic and demographic information about the community.**

*Geographical location*

Siriba village is located on the main Gulu high way in Kiryandongo district, North-Western Uganda. It is 225 kilometers by road from Kampala and takes approximately 3 and half hours drive by road.

*Population*

According to the 2014 National Housing Population census, Kiryandongo district stands at a total population of 268,188 with geographical area coverage of 3,624.1km<sup>2</sup>. Kiryandongo consists of 4 sub-counties, 30 parishes and 22 villages. Siriba village is in Kiryandongo sub-county.<sup>1</sup>

*Literacy levels*

In regards to literacy levels, Kiryandongo sub-county has a total population of 5,642 with literacy levels at 66.3%. According to a study carried out by the Uganda Bureau of Statistic (UBOS 2012) in collaboration with District Local Government on the socio-economic status in Kiryandongo, it was observed that those that fall under the age of 13-18 years were more literate than those that are either bellow or above this age bracket. During the a Kampala North visit in June 2105, it was found out that within the OPIT-KIC group, the highly educated woman holds an Ordinary Certificate Level (senior 4) while among men, the most educated holds an Advanced Level Certificate (senior 6) and among the youth, a Bachelor's degree is the highest qualification in the village.

*Healthcare*

Regarding the health situation, malaria, typhoid and cough and flu are the most common disease suffered in the community. From the OPTI-KIC offices, it takes about 2km to get to the nearest health care center which means even the most vulnerable within community (elderly widows and orphaned children) have to walk long distances to get to a nearest health center. Further to this, majority of women revealed that much as there are limited healthcare services within the community, they strongly felt priority was in most cases given to refugees. As such, most of them felt discriminated against on the basis tribe.

*Access to water*

Access to clean water sources was also identified as another challenge. On average, it takes about 11/2 km to get to the nearest borehole or a shallow well. Borehole and shallow wells are the predominant source of water for cooking and drinking. Besides the long distances that people have to travel to access water, the long queues at the water sources.

*Income indicators*

Agriculture is the main income generating activity within Siriba village and a typical income indicator across the district. Over 90% of its population depends on agriculture as a main source of livelihood. Although the community gets involved in trade and service provision, this is done at minimal level. For

<sup>1</sup> Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2014.

instance, during an interview with some members of the OPIT-KIC group in Siriba village on 13/06 2016, RCKN found out that the major crops grown in the community included maize, beans, ground nuts, cassava and sunflower. Farmers work as independent subsistence farmers with limited variety of number of crops. Also what was evident in this community is that there is inadequate capacity of the community to engage in sufficient agricultural production due limited capital and competitive markets. Many households do not adequately meet the basic needs as such food, clothing and shelter. More to this is that there is high level of unemployment especially among the youth which hinders their ability to participate in meaningful income generating activities.

### 3. What community needs was identified?

The needs that were identified during the assessment include:

- 1-Lack of funding for income generating activities particularly agriculture.
- 2- Low yields from agriculture
- 3- Limited healthcare services
- 4-Limited water sources and no safe drinking water
- 5-Low fertile soils
- 6-Training financial management and record keeping
- 7-Access to land and ownership
- 8-Access to education particularly for the orphaned children and youth

### 4. What is already being done to respond to the need(s)?

1-Revolving fund: The OPTI-KIC Widows Group has four different saving groups. The different groups save and manage their finances separately. Contributions are made weekly with each member paying a minimum of 1,000 and a maximum of 5,000UGX per week. Interest is charged by per month at a fee of 10%. The average amount of money that is usually borrowed is 50,000UGX though there are incidences where an individual can borrow more or less. Out of weekly contribution, a standard fee of 500/= is deducted for a welfare support facility accessible by all members in case of incidentals such as sickness or death. Once a group member passes away, the next of keen is entitled to take the savings. Although there systems already in place to save and manage finances, the revolving fund operates on a very small scale to realize significant profits for investment. Savings groups operate within a time frame of one year after which all the money saved is shared by all member and savings resume the next year. The issue of record keeping and financial management is a challenge.

#### **Saving groups under OPTI- KIC Widow's Group since January-May 2015.**

<b>Group Name</b>	<b>No of members</b>	<b>Amount saved</b>
Watiyo Karacel	48	20m
Lubanga Lakica	28	1.8m
Orphans group	28	1.3m
OPTI KIC Widows	27	1.8m

2-Brick laying: The youth are already involved in brick laying but this is done on a small scale. They lack capital and adequate professional skills to develop the business.

3-Agriculture -production of honey and popcorns: The OPTI KIC is already producing honey and popcorn maize. However, accesses to competitive markets still remain a challenge.

## 5. What resources are available locally to help meet the needs(s)?

Some of the available resources identified that would meet the needs include:

- 1-Enough land for agriculture that can be hired at relatively cheaper price. One acre is hired at rate of 100,000UGX per year.
- 2-Community labour by women, men and the youth.
- 3-Electricity (Hydro Electric Power).
- 4- Space to construct storage facilities within reasonable distance. At the moment storage of agricultural produces is done on an individual level.
- 5-Semi-skilled labour e.g. builders and carpenters though with limited technical personal. However these services can be out sourced at the district.
- 6-Healthcare workers e.g. nurse and clinical officers who are mostly children of the OPTI-KIC group members.

## 6. What opportunities for projects did you identify?

The opportunities identified for the project included:

Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Financial management and record keeping</li><li>• Modern farming methods</li><li>• Adult literacy</li><li>• Primary health care (hygiene)</li><li>• Technical skills for youth e.g. mechanics, tailoring, brick laying etc.</li></ul>
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of quality seeds to guarantee quality produce.</li><li>• Need to have a communally owned gridding mill for value addition to the produce.</li><li>• Absence of competitive markets<sup>2</sup>.</li><li>• The need to have an Ox-plough to enable farmers till bigger pieces of land. The reason was that majority of women are of old age with limited energy to spend longer hours preparing land. However they agreed to provide labour and support during weeding and harvesting periods.</li><li>• The lack of funds to boost income generating activities.</li></ul>
Healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The nearest healthcare center is 2km away and the nearest Health Center III is 3km.</li><li>• Main diseases are: Malaria, typhoid, cough and flu.</li><li>• Difficulty in accessing clean water. The nearest borehole is 1 1/2km. Long queues at the boreholes.</li></ul>
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• June and July are the most difficult months for the groups to save. This is the time many families pay school fees.</li><li>• Lack of funds to facilitate growing of new crops such as sunflower. There is a ready market though land needs to be hired. 1 acre goes for 100,000 per year.</li><li>• Paying tuition fees for youth at the nearby Siriba Technical Institute to acquire skills in tailoring, brick laying etc. E.g.</li></ul>

<sup>2</sup> During the meeting members pointed out that most people have bags of popcorns stuck in their houses with nowhere to take them for sale. They said this discourage production as it's increasingly difficult to predict markets.

	course on tailoring cost 70,000 per term.

## 7. Which project did you select? Why did you select this project?

Out of the possible projects assessed, agriculture was selected as a priority project.

This project was selected basing on five main factors:

- 1-The biggest population in Siriba village depends on agriculture for their livelihood and income;
- 2- Effective utilization of agricultural best practices determines household incomes, the quality of health, education and general wellbeing of families and economic development of the community;
- 3- The community is already engaged in several agricultural activities and thus Kampala North can build on the already existing initiatives;
- 4-There is available human resource and labour to manage, coordinated and monitor the project; and lastly;
- 5-There is an opportunity for up-scaling since there is available land that can used to expand the project.

The majority view of the community and those of the team that undertook the assessment was that agriculture has high chances of generating higher incomes of which these earnings would be used to feed families, pay school fees for children especially orphans and generally improve the standards of living of individual households and the community.

## 8. What challenges to implementation of this project did you identify? How does the project plan take these challenges into account?

No	Challenges identified	Strategy for mitigating the challenges
1	The geographical location of the project. It takes three and half hours drive by road from Kampala to Kirynadongo. This requires extra commitment in terms of finances and time needed to coordinate and monitor implantation of the project.	RCKN will from the beginning train and mentor community leadership to effectively coordinate and manage the project. This will reduce on the number of visits to the community without compromising on the effectiveness of the project.
2	There is a risk that the funds to implement the agricultural project may not be sufficient.	RCKN will intensify fundraising and also look out for possible partnerships in order to address the funding gap.
3	Low prices for agricultural produces.	RCKN will endeavour to reduce on the involvement of middle men with community farmers and will instead establish direct linkages between farmers and buyers to be able to realize higher prices.
4	Lack of access to competitive markets.	RCKN will train community farmers in modern farming practices with a hope of producing high quality products that can favorably compete for both local and export markets.

5	Persistent pests and diseases which reduce on both quantity and quality of produces.	On top of modern farming practices, RCKN will identify and connect community farmers to reliable suppliers of genuine and quality pesticides. Farmers will also receive training on how to use these products.
6	Unpredictable weather conditions due to climate change.	RCKN will encourage farmers to invest in affordable modern farming technology such as irrigation systems to fill in the gap of long drought spells. Rain water harvest will also be encouraged.
7	Threat from common diseases malaria, typhoid cough and flu.	RCKN will support health workers to train community members on primary health care basis such as personal and household hygiene, boiling drinking water, waste disposal among others.

#### **9. How will the benefiting community be involved in the project**

Initially, the benefiting community was involved in problem identification process and eventual selection of the project. Building on this, the community will continue to get involved through the following ways:

- 1-The community will manage the day today running and management of the project and will in the process provide overall leadership and ownership.
- 2- Labour and materials that can be found in the community will be community's contribution.

#### **10. Describe the viability of the project and how it will be maintained by the benefiting community after grant funds have been expended.**

<b>Check list on viability of a proposed project</b>				
<b>No</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
	<b>Core criteria</b>			
1	Does the project advance the object of Rotary?	✓		
2	Does the project promote enhance and generate greater awareness and understanding of sustainable development?	✓		
3	Does the project demonstrate innovation or best practice	✓		
4	Does the project have the support and innovation of the community	✓		
5	Does the project link two or more of the following: community, environment, economic and cultural issues?	✓		
6	Does the project demonstrate imagination and creativity?	✓		

7	Will the project change lives of its beneficiaries?	✓		
	<b>Desirable criteria:</b>			
1	Does the project involve young people?	✓		
2	Does the project address local social needs?	✓		
3	Does the project have community structures to manage it?	✓		
4	Does the project conserve and promote aspects of community heritage and culture?	✓		
5	Does the project generate its own income?	✓		
6	Does the project help the local economy?	✓		
7	Does the project contribute to employment, training or volunteering?	✓		
8	Does the project have a business plan?	✓		
9	Does the project use traditional or local materials?	✓		
10	Is the project cost effective?	✓		

The sustainability of any community project largely depends on the level of involvement of its beneficiaries. When people feel connected to their project, they make meaningful and sustainable contributions. In this respect, RCKN will encourage and mentor people to identify with and commit to building strong foundation from which other future project will stand.

*“We have a responsibility to our program recipients; they’ve had so many losses in their lives and for us to come in for a year or two or three and give them hope, only to have the program go away, We’ve just caused another loss and a further loss of hope in their lives.” —Akerlund 2000*