SOCIETY

UNDUGU

THE ADVOCACY PROJECT
SUPPORTING ADVOCATES FOR PEACE

'GIVING VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUTH THEIR RIGHTS'

A DIGITAL STORYTELLING PROJECT

PROJECT PROPOSAL

1.0   INTRODUCTION

Undugu Society Kenya (USK) is over 34 years old and is one of the oldest development organizations in Sub- Saharan Africa. It was founded by the late Father Arnold Grol after he observed a growing and disturbing phenomenon of children living on the streets of Nairobi, who were then been referred to as *'parking boys'*. USK is a *pro-poor and pro-child* focused organization that envisions a just and economically empowered society where every person has access to a decent livelihood. Our target groups comprise children and vulnerable youth living and working on the streets and those from marginalized communities. Lobbying and advocacy is mainstreamed as a key strategy in all USK's 3 Rights-Based social programmes. Presently, the programmes use both a curative and preventive approach. These programmes are:

   a. **Children and Youth Programme:** This programme employs the Street Association Model towards transforming and empowering the vulnerable children and youth living and working on the streets.

   b. **Education and Training Programme:** This programme increases access to education and training opportunities to vulnerable children and youth through the Undugu Non-Formal Education Centers and Informal Skills Training Programme.

   c. **Undugu Community Empowerment Programme;** This programme employs the Self Help Groups and Capacity Development approaches towards socially, economically and politically empowering poor and marginalized communities living in informal settlements.

The Advocacy Project (AP) is a not for profit, non-governmental organization based in the United States of America (USA) that helps its partners become better advocates for their social justice mission through the production, dissemination and use of information. The partnership between USK and AP began in 2007 and has continued into this year. In June 2008, USK and AP partnered to realize a 3 month pilot digital storytelling project. The project had *child and youth participation* as its central theme towards encouraging vulnerable children and youth to raise their voices on issues affecting their lives and recommending solutions to these issues.

The objectives of this pilot project were to:
   ✓ Raise the voices of 17 vulnerable children and youth so as to create awareness on issues affecting their lives,
   ✓ Change society's negative perception of these children, and
   ✓ Empower 17 vulnerable children, through capacity development, to advocate and hold their rights.

Additionally, USK and AP will use the project to advocate with and for the children's and youth's rights. The pilot project was designed to impart basic photography, blogging and computer skills to the children. USK provided 2 staff, a workshop hall and 17 learners for the project while AP provided the project trainer. The project received a 3 month grant, June to August, from the Jessica Jennifer Cohen Foundation, an organization based in America. The project has been successfully implemented and after 2 months, outputs, outcomes and challenges have been realized as outlined below.

2. THE DIGITAL STORYTELLING PILOT PROJECT
FIRST PHASE- *JUNE- AUGUST 2008*

The first phase of the project began in June and is to end in August. The theme of this phase was '*raising the voices of vulnerable children and youth*.' The goal of this pilot phase was to contribute to mainstreaming child participation in the development agenda of the country while the project's objective was to impart skills of photography and blogging to 17 learners towards positively expressing themselves on issues affecting their lives and solutions to these issues.

2.1 Planned Activities

The following were the planned activities for this pilot project:

1. Learner identification, orientation and consent form signing
2. Development of a workshop curriculum
3. Weekly Workshops (3 days a week)
4. TOT (Training of Trainers)
5. Launch of the project.(To showcase the children's work towards creating awareness of the project and change negative perceptions of the community)

During the project the learners were placed in two groups. One group comprised children and vulnerable youth living and working on the streets, selected from USK Street Associations. The other groups comprised vulnerable children and youth attending USK's Non-Formal school located in the Pumwani informal settlement and children and youth in vocational skills training.

The learners, with the help of project trainer, have completed their first blogs and taken their first photographs. The children come from different backgrounds and have had different experiences, which makes their blogs and photographs diverse. Both groups are completing a blog on a theme that they chose on their own. Some of the themes they have written about include: *police harassment, life on the streets, post-election violence, death of a friend, environmental degradation and drugs.*

Also, one group was asked to write a blog about a day that they would never forget. Some examples of days they would never forget include; *the day they learned that they were going to school, the day they had an accident, the day they saw a man being beaten in the post-election violence, and the day that they were discriminated against for being Muslim.*

The blogs have been posted online (*vide appendix*) and the project trainer has made available the links to a wide spectrum of people. In addition to the blogs, we have worked on photography with the students. The learners were asked to illustrate their blog with photos and tell stories with only pictures. Despite the fact that their photos need work, since it has been the first time the children have handled a camera, we are very pleased with the results.

Once the workshops are complete in mid August and the students have posted at least three blogs and two photo blogs, we plan on launching the project in Nairobi. This will be a platform to showcase the children's work, raise awareness about the project and the issues raised by the children to stakeholders such as government officials, civil society, development partners, parents, teachers and the public in general. Additionally, this will contribute to changing society's negative perception of these children. The learners will have an opportunity to auction their best photos and 10% of the *total proceeds* will be ploughed back to USK in support of the next phase of the project.

2.2 Activities and Outputs To-date

- Selection of 17 learners. 8 from USK Street Associations (children and youth living or working on the streets), 5 from USK's Pumwani Non-Formal school and 4 from USK's vocational training program. The students are between the ages of 14 to 22 and 5 are girls.
- 17 project consents signed.
- All project equipment purchased.
- Development of a project curriculum and a master calendar (To aid in effective planning of the workshops.)
- All scheduled workshops completed. All students attended most classes and actively participated in both theoretical and practical lessons on blogging and photography.
- Learners email accounts, blog accounts and accounts for online photo were shared created. The learners also posted their first blogs and photos online. Links to these websites are available in the appendix section.
- Learners able to blog and use a computer and camera at a basic level.

2.3 Project Results

- 17 learners are able to better and positively express themselves, through basic skills in blogging and photography, on issues affecting their lives and recommend solutions to these problems.
- 17 learners are able to focus and engage in positive activities.

2.4 Challenges

- Availability of only three cameras has posed a challenge as the learners had to share them amongst themselves,
- The learners have only been able to develop very basic photography and computer skills as the children did not handle the cameras and computers on a daily basis,
- Slow and unreliable Internet connection at Internet cafés slowed the process and frustrated the students,
- Limited funds resulted in overstretching the funds to meet all necessary requirements of the project,
- Limited or no resources to hold a local exhibition and,
- Limited or no time or resources to hold the TOT(Training of Trainers) in this phase

3. LAUNCH OF THE PROJECT

USK and AP plan to launch the project in Nairobi on the **20th August 2008**.

The objectives of this launch are:

- ✓ To raise awareness of the project and the children's issues to stakeholders such as government officials, civil society, development partners, parents, teachers and the public in general by showcasing the children's and youth's works of photography and blogging.
- ✓ Contribute to changing the society's negative perception of these children and youth.
- ✓ Raise funds for the next phase of the project, which will last 3 months beginning September to November 2008. *10%* of the *total proceeds* will be ploughed back to USK in support of the next phase.
- ✓ Raise funds to assist the families of the vulnerable children and youth. The learners will have an opportunity to auction their best photos.

The primary stakeholders/audience at this launch will be as follows:

- **Vulnerable Children and Youth**: to encourage other vulnerable children and youth to raise their voices about issues affecting them and solutions to these through positive avenues.
- **Parents and teachers**: to encourage them to increase child participation by listening to children and youth as they are stakeholders in the development of the country.

5

- **Government officials:** The line ministry will be the Ministry of Gender and Children Services which will coordinate plans of action with other ministries and departments to address the children's and youth's issues.

While the secondary stakeholders will be as follows:
- **General Public:** towards changing negative perceptions of these children and youth and partnering with other stakeholders to address the issues.
- **Media Players:** towards creating awareness of the project, issues the learners raise and being positive change agents for these children's lives.
- **Private Sector Players:** such as NCBDA that could, with other stakeholders, carry through a plan of action.
- **Development Partners:** such as UNICEF, UNDP and UNEP that could partner with GoK in carrying through plans of action.
- **Civil Society Organizations**: including NGOs and Faith Based Organizations that could partner with other stakeholders to remedy the situation.

4. PROJECT PROPOSAL; SECOND PHASE (SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2008) *'GIVING CHILDREN THEIR RIGHTS'*

4.1 Justification
USK and AP envision that all workshops with learners and the launch in Nairobi will be carried out by the end of August. As a result of limited time and resources we have resolved to hold the planned Training of Trainers (TOT) from September to November 2008. We therefore seek to extend the project period for another 3 months until November 2008. The project's goal, purpose and expected results are as follows.

4.2 Project Theme, Goal and Purpose
The project's theme for this extended period will be '*Giving Vulnerable Youth and Children their Rights'*. The project's goal is to contribute to Millennium Development Goal Number 1 of eradication of extreme poverty. The project's purpose is to increase child and youth participation in the development agenda of the country. During this period, the project will be designed to achieve the results outlined below and will continue to have ***child and youth participation*** as a central sub-theme in addition to a ***multi-stakeholder approach*** to solving issues affecting the children's and youth's lives.

4.3   Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of this project phase will be 10 vulnerable children and youth selected from the 17 learners from the previous phase. Additionally, 2 learners of the 17 learners will be selected to co-facilitate with the principal project trainer. This is will eventually promote the project as a youth-led initiative. The 5 learners that will not be going to the next phase will be linked to other ICT and pro-poor focused organizations.

4.4   Expected Project Results

1.   Increased proficiency of 10 learners in photography, blogging and facilitation skills.
2.   Advanced proficiency of 2 youth facilitators in photography, blogging and facilitation skills.
3.   Increased proficiency of 10 learners to communicate advocacy messages through blogging and photography.
4.   Advanced proficiency of 2 youth facilitators to communicate advocacy messages through blogging and photography.
5.   Advanced proficiency of 1 USK staff/volunteer in photography and blogging skills and use of these skills to communicate advocacy messages.
6.   Increased support for the next phase of the project period beginning January 2009.
7.   Increased stakeholder awareness, locally and regionally, on the project and issues affecting the lives of vulnerable children and youth and recommendations to remedy this situation.
8.   Plan of action by stakeholders in addressing issues raised by the vulnerable children and youth.

4.5   Project Activities

4.5.1   Activities contributing to Results 1 to 5

1. Identification, orientation and signing of consent forms of 10 best learners and of 3 co-facilitators.
2. Purchase of project equipment.
3. Revision of curriculum in order to fit the new project design of the TOT.
4. Workshops of Training of Trainers (TOT).
5. Project progress monitoring on a bi-weekly basis.

4.5.2 Activities contributing to Results 6 to 7

6. Exhibition in Kisumu by end of November 2008.

7. Press releases in local dailies in Kenya.

8. Articles in local magazines especially those that have readership in informal settlements.

9. National Stakeholders Forum in Nairobi. The children and youth will facilitate this forum with the guidance of USK and AP staff while participants will be drawn from Nairobi, Kisumu and Mombasa.

10. Project evaluation at end of November.

4.6   Project Stakeholders

4.6.1   Primary Stakeholders

- Vulnerable Children and Youth
- Government ministries/ Department; Ministry of Gender and Children Services being the line ministry
- Development Partners

4.6.2   Secondary Stakeholders

- Parent and Teachers
- General Public
- Media Players
- Private Sector Players
- Civil Society Organizations

5.0   PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

5.1   Replication Effect

To ensure the sustainability of the project, the 10 best learners,1 staff and 2 youth facilitators will be trained proficiently on photography and blogging skills in this next phase, so that in the following phase envisioned to begin January 2009, the students will be capable of teaching more learners how to raise their voices through blogging and photography. This will ensure that voices of children and youth in the country will be heard and that child participation is mainstreamed in the country. A curriculum will also be developed and printed that will be used for future workshops by the trained trainers.

5.2   Partnership

The project will also partner with NAIROBITS, an NGO working to develop ICT skills of vulnerable children and youth. They will provide a healthy learning environment for the 10 learners by availing a fully equipped and internet enabled computer lab that the learners will utilize to upload their blogs and photographs. Additionally, as NAIROBITS is located in the GODOWN ART CENTRE, the 10 learners will have the opportunity to interact with other artists practicing in different genres of arts. The latter will expose the children to more artistic avenues of expressing themselves and developing their talents in the arts.

5.3   Project Visibility

Given the importance of raising the voices of vulnerable children and youth on issues affecting their lives through different platforms, the role of the fourth estate cannot be underplayed. To create awareness and disseminate information more widely we shall partner with various local, regional and international media houses, both print and electronic, during the launch and during the next phase of the project. In particular, we shall engage local FM radio stations, which broadcast in various local languages. Additionally, we shall have press releases on the project and launch and the Advocacy Project, in the USA, and USK will host a fundraising web page for this project.

5.4   Financial Sustainability

USK and AP intend to fundraise sufficiently for this next phase and we shall continue fundraising for 2 year funding for the project beginning the year in 2009.

5.5   Youth-led Initiative

It is envisioned that within a year, the project will have been transformed to a youth-led project. This begins to be mainstreamed by intensively training 2 youth facilitators and 10 trainers in this phase and training more youth facilitators and trainers of trainees in 2009.

6.0   MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The project coordinator will carry out project progress monitoring on a bi-weekly basis through field visits and the project will be evaluated at the end of November.

7.0   BUDGET

Find attached the project budget and notes.

APPENDIX

LINKS TO BLOGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Amina is 19 years old and is a student at USK's non-formal school in Pumwani.
www.aminakombo.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/aminakombo

Dominic is 20 years old and is a member of a USK Street Association.
www.dominicmuia.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/dominicmuia

Eliud is 18 years old and is involved with USK's informal skills training program. He is learning mechanics.
www.eliudkinyanjuichege.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/eliudchege

Elvis is 16 years old and is involved with USK's informal skills training program. He is learning spray painting.
www.elvisjamesmajani.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/elvismajani

Grivinson is 15 years old and is a student at USK's non-formal school in Pumwani.
www.grivinsonmagomere.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/grivinsonmagomere

Harrison is 18 years old and is a member of a USK Street Association.
www.harrisonnjoroge.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/harrisonnjoroge

John is 18 years old and is a student at USK's non-formal school in Pumwani.
www.johnkioko.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/johnkioko

Joseph is 18 years old and is a member of a USK Street Association.
www.josephgachira.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/josephgachira

Martin is 21 years old and is a member of a USK Street Association.
www.martinndugu.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/martinndugu

Mavish is 15 years old and is involved with USK's informal skills training program. She is learning hairdressing.
www.mavishjepkemboi.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/mavishjepkemboi

Nancy is 14 years old and is a student at USK's non-formal school in Pumwani.
www.nancyanyango.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/nancyanyango

Patrick is 22 years old and is a member of a USK Street Association.
www.patrickmwema.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/patrickmwema

Peter is 20 years old and is a member of a USK Street Association and is involved with USK's informal skills training program. He is learning hairdressing.
www.petermwatha.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/petermwatha

Piliphan is 14 years old and is a student at USK's non-formal school in Pumwani.
www.piliphankanana.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/piliphankanana

Raphael is 18 years old and is a member of a USK Street Association and is involved with USK's informal skills training program. He is learning mechanics.
www.raphaelngugi.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/raphaelngugi

Rispar is 16 years old and is involved with USK's informal skills training program. She is learning dressmaking.
www.risparrusimbu.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/risparrusimbu

Robinson is 20 years old and is a member of a USK Street Association.
www.robinsonmunene.wordpress.com
www.flickr.com/photos/robinsonmunene