

Village Volunteers in action! Supporting a Strategic Planning event for the Safe Neighbourhood Foundation



www.ica-uk.org.uk

In late 2009, Richard Kirya, Director of the Safe Neighbourhood Foundation (an ICA:UK partner), approached ICA:UK with a request for funding to support the development of a new strategic plan. There was a strong case both for having such a guiding framework, but to build broad ownership of the plan. In April 2010, the ICA:UK Board approved a grant of £3,000 from Village Volunteers Funds to contribute towards a strategic planning event.

SNF is based in Budaka, in Eastern Uganda, and focuses its development programmes on the surrounding communities. Since its inception, SNF has had a range of programmes, which are largely focused on Sustainable Agriculture, Environmental Preservation, Water & Sanitation and Health (including HIV/AIDS, primary and community health care). The philosophy of the organisation is to promote the concept of “Omulirano Omusa”, meaning a safe and healthy community in its holistic sense.



The Strategic Planning event took place over 5 days in June 2010 with a team of 14 people, representing Budaka Community representatives, SNCF Board members, Staff and Partner Organisations & Institutions. The venue for the event was Wilta Travellers Hotel, Budaka Town. The Planning was facilitated by John Cornwell, an independent consultant based in Kenya, with a long association with ICA:UK.



The purpose of the event was to explore and understand better the external environment in which SNF is operating, to review the current position of the organisation and to develop a strategic framework for SNF to guide the organization over the next 3-5 years. A key intention was to build ownership of the plan amongst the SNF staff, volunteers (including Board) and the community members SNF serves. After all the discussions and deliberations, by the end of the workshop participants had been able to agree the new vision, mission, aim, values and strategic objectives for SNF (see Box below)

Vision: Self-reliant individual and communities managing resources for their well-being

Mission: To empower communities to actively participate in development processes

Aim: To build capacity of individuals and communities in poverty alleviation and raising their standards of living

Values: We believe in Transparency, Commitment, Respect and Co-operation

Strategic Objectives

SNF believes sustainable development will only be achieved when the root causes of under development i.e. ignorance, poverty, poor leadership are dealt with, SNCF hopes to achieve this with the following strategic objectives:

To enable communities manage their resources profitably

To promote sustainable food security through training in use of modern farming techniques

To lobby and advocate for equal development opportunities for all

To fight the scourge of HIV/AIDS and promote community health services

To promote afforestation, environmental preservation and adaption to climate change

The hard work and high level of engagement of all participants throughout the Strategic Planning workshop clearly reflects their commitment to the organisation and its vision and mission, as well as to the work itself that is aimed at improving the lives and livelihoods of the residents of Budaka District and beyond.

John Cornwell, Facilitator

This Strategic Plan is a result of the input of a cross section of members of our community in Budaka, Board members of SNF, members of our civil leadership all the management staff and representatives of famers. The final plan together with the budgetary proposals contains all the essentials needed to strengthen SNF and Safe Neighbourhood Communities to plan for the future.

Vincent Namulezu, Chairman, Board of Directors



The established relationship that ICA:UK has with SNF provides an opportunity for ongoing support and guidance as SNF now begins to implement the plan it has created. It is through such implementation that SNF will be able to both develop and grow as an organisation, but also to serve better the communities it works with.