



## **YOUNG VOICES EMPOWERED TO TAKE ON THE PRESENT AND SHAPING THE FUTURE**

“We are happy that we have learnt to be the voices for the voiceless” Shadia of Rock Foundation Primary school in Banda. This and many others were voices of many school pupils from 12 selected schools in Nakawa Division Urban Council who were introduced to the advocacy concept and understanding their rights. Uganda is committed to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and has made deliberate efforts to make laws, regulations and policies to ensure that there’s full realisation of children’s rights. Despite these efforts its still a challenge to have the children both in school and out of school to fully enjoy these rights and therefore actions must be taken to support the cause. The need for the children to be made aware of their rights and responsibilities is a key building block of their journey to realisation of their rights including Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)Rights .

Cognizant of this, CIDI in partnership with Danish People’s Aid and Kampala Capital Authority under the Citizen’s Action on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (CA\_WASH ) Project in Nakawa Division Urban Council thus focuses on promoting WASH Rights in Schools as well as communities. The intervention whose overall goal aims at contributing towards increased citizen’s engagement and duty bears’ responsiveness focuses on both communities and schools focuses on 12 Schools and communities in Luzira, Mbuya, Bukoto1 and Banda Parishes. The schools include Rock Foundation Primary School, Kyambogo Primary school and St Pauls Primary school in Banda; Luzira Progressive Primary school, Luzira Church of Uganda and Murchison Bay Primary schools in Luzira, Africa 2000 Primary School, Side view Primary school and Mbuya Church of Uganda Primary school in Mbuya, St Catherine, Bukoto Community and Kisuule Primary schools in Bukoto.

Within the selected schools, pupils are triggered in understanding their rights and how they can use several advocacy strategies to improve the living conditions within their schools and hence improve academic performance. The approach involves identification of pupils from classes beginning from Primary three to Primary seven where at least thirty learners are introduced to basic principles of human rights by and sanitation and hygiene. After the training which they choose amongst themselves advocacy committee members. A patron is then chosen among the teachers who is to guide and mentor the learners and guide

them as they pursue their actions for improved WASH situation in the schools. They also are meant to engage key duty bearers through various channels such as dialogues with their school management committees, radio talk shows. Its hoped that these learners can be active citizen's now as they engage on issues affecting their present and also shape the future they desire knowing their rights and responsibilities.

*Sub title for the picture*

Kisembo Kenneth a learner from Murchison Bay Primary School WASH Advocacy Club at a Radio Talk Show with the Patron

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