

**THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) IN YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT IN UGANDA: CASE STUDY OF PLAN INTERNATIONAL,
MAJANJI SUB-COUNTY BUSIA DISTRICT, UGANDA.**

BY

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
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REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A BACHELOR'S
DEGREE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES OF
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UNIVERSITY**

OCTOBER, 2017


DECLARATION

I, Nafula Lilian hereby declare that the information presented in this thesis is original and has never been published, presented or submitted to any institution of higher learning for award of degree.

Signature:.....

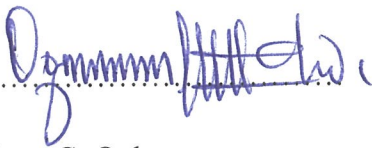
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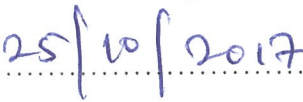
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APPROVAL

The thesis titled: “The Role of Non-Governmental Organization (NGOS) in Youth Empowerment in Uganda: Case Study of Plan International Majanji Sub-County Busia District Uganda” was conducted under my supervision and is now ready for submission.

Signature: 

Dr. Chidiebere C. Ogbonna

Date: 

DEDICATION

I dedicate this report to my lovely parents Mr.Wandera Julius and Miss. Tabisa Nabwire. For their tremendous moral, psychological and financial support rendered to me in the due course of my education. This makes me more proud of them because without their support I would not have seen the light of education that has made me what I am today.

My beloved brothers Okumu Justus, Bwire Richard, Ouma Faustine and sister Misanya Caroline, for their continuous efforts, guidance and support showed to me whenever I needed help.

Lastly I thank the almighty Lord for the precious gift of life he has given me, my parents, siblings, friends and relatives and all those who supported me both financially and physically.

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LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: 3.1 showing the research population and the sample size.	16
Table 2 : 4.1 showing the gender of respondents	19
Table 3 : 4.2 showing the category, number and the percentage of the respondents	19
Table 4 : 4.3 Showing the respondents living under grass thatched and semi-permanent houses.	24

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CIP	Children in the Program
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ICESCR	International Covenant Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
LCs	Local councils
M SC	Majanji Sub- County
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRM	National Resistance Movement
PIUB	Plan International Uganda Busia
S4YE	Solution for Youth Empowerment
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	i
APPROVAL	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	iv
LIST OF TABLES.....	v
LIST OF ACRONYMS	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
ABSTRACT.....	x
CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION	1
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Background of the study	1
1.2. Historical background	2
1.2.1. Plan International Uganda (PIU).....	3
1.3. Statement of the problem	3
1.4. Objectives of the study	4
1.5. Research questions.....	4
1.6. Scope of the study	4
1.6.1. Geographical scope	5
1.6.2. Time scope	5
1.7. Significance of the study.....	5
1.8. Definition of key concepts	5
1.9. Conceptual frame work	6

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW.....	8
2.0 Introduction.....	8
2.1 Historical development of NGOs in Uganda	9
2.2 Background	10
2.3 Role of plan international Uganda Busia branch project in Majanji Sub- County.....	11
2.4 Challenges faced by plan international Uganda Busia branch project in youth empowerment	11
2.5 Theoretical Perspective	12
2.6 Economic, Social and Cultural rights on empowerment theory.....	14
CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY	15
3.0 Introduction.....	15
3.1. Research design.....	15
3.2. The study population.....	15
3.3. Sample Size.....	15
3.4 Sampling techniques	16
3.5 Data collection methods.....	17
3.5.1. Interviews.....	17
3.5.2. Questionnaires.....	17
3.6. Ethical consideration.....	17
3.7. Data analysis	17
3.8. Limitation of the study	17
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS.....	19
4.0 Introduction.....	19
4.1 Analysis of demographic data.....	19
4.1.1 Demographic characteristics	19
4.2 Presentation and analysis of data: The contributions of NGOs to youth empowerment.....	20

4.2.1 Asset creation	20
4.2.2 Pre-employment competencies	20
4.2.3 Youth engagement and leadership	20
4.2.4 Focus on adolescent girls	21
4.3 The contributions of plan international in the socio-economic development of youths in Majanji Sub County.....	22
4.3.1 Education	22
4.3.2 Agriculture	22
4.3.3 Business	23
4.3.4 Housing	24
4.4 Challenges youths face in accessing empowerment programmes and services.....	25
4.4.1 Solutions to the challenges faced by the youths in accessing empowerment programmes and services.....	26
CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION	28
5.0 Introduction	28
5.1 Discussion	28
5.2 Conclusions.....	31
5.3 Recommendations	31
5.4 Future Research.....	32
REFERENCES	33
APPENDICES.....	36
APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YOUTHS / BENEFICIARIES OF NGOs PROGRAMME IN MAJANJI SUB-COUNTY BUSIA DISTRICT	36
APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NGO'S STAFF	40

ABSTRACT

The study examined on the role of NGOs in youth empowerment in Uganda, Busia District, Majanji Sub County. The primary objective of the study was to assess the contribution of NGOs to youth empowerment using a case of plan international Uganda. The secondary objectives were: to evaluate the projects and contributions of plan international Uganda Busia branch in the socio-economic development and to examine the challenges youths face in accessing the services of plan international Uganda and their solutions. The study also looked into the history of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Busia District. The theory that was used to guide the study was the empowerment theory. The sample size was 109 respondents who were chosen from several groups including community development officers, managers of Plan international, the youth, the elders and the local leaders.

Data collection methods used in the study included; interviews, observation, group discussions and questionnaires. The analysis of data was done with the help of SPSS computer program. Data were presented and analyzed on the contributions of NGOs to youth empowerment and these contributions included; asset creation, Pre-employment competencies, Youth engagement and leadership, focus on adolescent girls among others. The study found out that the contributions of plan international in the socio-economic development of youths in the Sub County included Education, Agriculture, Business, and Housing. Challenges youths faced while accessing empowerment programmes and services also included; Poor roads, Poor Community responsiveness, some of the local leaders in the sub-county sabotaged the NGO's programs and inadequate funds. Among the recommendations made is that Plan International and other NGOs should expansion their programmes and services to cover a bigger number of women and youths in the sub county.

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

Britai, Haggard (2005), argue that NGOs identify systematic factors causing inequalities and exploitation that marginalizes various groups within the society and have the goals of working for transformation of existing structures, systems and relationships in order to enhance human dignity among socio-economically disadvantaged groups. They are also increasingly in research, public education and advocacy. The argument by Britai, Haggard (2005) has been and will continue to be a guiding force in the study of NGOs more especially when they point out that NGOs today go beyond welfare functions and are working for structural change in the society by way of removing the dehumanizing elements causing inequalities and exploitation. This is the basic principles that most NGOs come up to achieve their broad objectives, they initiate programmes such as training, provision of funds, equipment's and technical assistances to the vulnerable groups.

1.1 Background of the study

The surge of NGOs activity throughout sub-Saharan Africa in the 1990s was reflective of the processes of economic and political liberalization that have propelled NGOs to the forefront as significant actors in the political and economic arena, civil society and NGOs thus became the development catchwords in the 1990s. Past development approach had failed to mitigate and eliminate under development, poverty and continued depression. In 1981, the former chair of Oxfam in the United Kingdom, Sir Geoffrey Wilson characterized NGOs as mostly concerned with the development of agriculture, healthcare and education in both rural and urban environments. In the past decades NGOs had come to be viewed as very appropriate and perhaps the most appropriate form of agency for dealing with broad spectrum of intervention, especially emergency relief and social economic development. Before Uganda became independent in 1962, the administration, management and overall direction of education and healthcare was in the hands of the private missionary. The main beneficiaries of such a system were the children of the chiefs and nobles. The motive was to produce manpower needed for the colonial administrative machinery. There was thus no interest in building an education system oriented towards the people's needs and aspirations (Disketty, 1991). However, after gaining independence, the role shifted to the ministries of education and health and most of the missionary and private schools and hospitals were taken over by the

government in order to centralize the process, content, orientation and administration of health and even of education that was being imparted by the different types of educators. Towards this policy, the ministries collaborated with other government agencies as well as various NGOs local and international, religious and non-religious in order to improve on education and health in Uganda.

Plan international Uganda is an international NGO that was founded in Spain in 1937, by John Langdon-Davies. He was touched by the situation youths were experiencing during the wars that ensued between North and South Korea where many youths were abandoned and rendered homeless and unemployed. Ever since inception the organization has expanded its operation to cover 51 countries across Africa, the Americas, and Asia. Plan International Uganda has operated in Uganda since 2000 following the challenge of unemployment that exists majorly among the youth. It thus helps in recruiting unemployed youths in different sectors to acquire jobs. It also carries out relief work such as providing families with food, clothing and providing blankets to the needy. The surge of HIV/AIDS in Rakai district of Western Uganda also attracted the attention of plan international Uganda. Today the organization has branches in different parts of the country. In addition, the organization has transformed its activities from giving relief to disadvantaged youth groups to community based rehabilitation activities though the basic objectives of the organization are to facilitate quality education, enhance the welfare of children and youth empowerment. This is done by providing poverty alleviation programmes to the youths, as well as support and protection to the environment.

1.2. Historical background

NGOS started in Busia during the liberation war (1981-1986) due to poor humanitarian situation characterized by death and poverty. The negative impact of the war necessitated NGOs to intervene and save the situation through providing services to people from Busia district Majanji Sub-County and other Sub-Counties. Since that period, different NGOs have operated in Busia district such as, the International Red Cross, World Vision, Child Fund, Compensation International, Victory Church and their activities includes religion, providing welfare services to orphans, poor and the widow.

1.2.1. Plan International Uganda (PIU)

Plan international Uganda derives its finances from a source called sponsorship financing. It is from this fund that those needy youths who are identified by plan international Uganda Busia branch staff are given assistance financially or otherwise. The approach employed by Plan International to attract funding is to take photographs of needy youths and then post the photos to prospective sponsors in the United States of America and Canada. Through the network of sponsorship, each youth gets an individual who make donations to support their empowerment. In needy places like Busia and Karamoja regions there is large scale funding for youth due to horrible economic conditions faced by the youth in their communities.

Plan International have been doing a tremendous amount of work in supporting the youths and help them liberate from poverty. However, plan international Uganda Busia branch mode of soliciting funds needs critical examination. For instance, the method of raising fund by Plan International branch in Busia portrays a bleak picture of the recipients as well as Uganda as a whole. They take photographs of youth dressed in tattered clothes in order to appear to be suffering and in need for help. This damages the self-image of the recipients (youths) and the country's as well. Sponsorship financing also limits the number of projects an NGO can get involved in because it is basically for an individual youth. The advantage of sponsorship financing however is that the local under plan international Uganda Busia branch enjoy the advantage of accessing funds given to them by their sponsors.

1.3. Statement of the problem

There is high level of illiteracy in Majanji Sub-County and this increases the rate of crimes such as rape, theft, murder and so on. Therefore, much effort is needed to put in place to devise means of how the wellbeing of youths can be improved. It is important for every youth to have good education, to be loved, to live a healthy life and to have basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing and a protected environment. The above is recognized by the international community through its declaration on the wellbeing of youths. Though the government of Uganda is trying to enhance the wellbeing of youths, however, the results are unpromising.

Similarly, numerous NGOs are involved in the field of youth welfare across the country. Despite the vast numbers and activities of NGOs, youths in Uganda continue to be deprived in

many aspects of their lives including health care, employment and education. It is therefore crucial to investigate the practical role that NGOs are playing to enhance the wellbeing of youths. This study therefore, will examine the role of Plan International Uganda, Busia branch as one of the popular NGOs in Uganda promoting youth empowerment with a specific focus on Majanji Sub-County in Busia district.

1.4. Objectives of the study

- The primary objective of the study was to assess the contribution of NGOs to youth empowerment using a case study of plan international Uganda Busia branch in Majanji Sub-County.
- To evaluate the projects and contributions of plan international Uganda Busia branch in the socio-economic development of youth in Majanji Sub-County.
- To examine the challenges youths face in accessing the services of plan international Uganda, Busia branch in Majanji Sub-County and to proffer possible solutions to mitigate the identified challenges.

1.5. Research questions

In view of the objectives, the study addressed the following questions.

- What is the goal of plan international Uganda Busia branch youth empowerment program in Majanji Sub-County?
- What are the contributions of plan international Uganda Busia branch on the social and economic wellbeing of youths of Majanji Sub-County?
- What are the constraints and challenges faced by youths in accessing empowerment programmes offered by plan international Uganda Busia Branch Majanji Sub-County?

1.6. Scope of the study

The research was conducted in Majanji sub-county between and August 2017. The case study was chosen mainly because the researcher is from Busia District, hence being very conversant with the geographical area. It is estimated that the area has the highest rate of poverty, diseases, single parents and domestic violence when compared to other regions in Uganda.

The study therefore focused on youth empowerment programmes provided plan international in the case study sub county (water and sanitation youth welfare), thus leaving out other activities and programmes of Plan International. In addition, the research considered youths in the following categories: single parents, orphaned, divorced and unmarried.

1.6.1. Geographical scope

The study was conducted in Majanji Sub-County Busia District. It covered Junge, Dadira, Majanji and Nagabita parish.

1.6.2. Time scope

The study was carried out between June and August 2017. The most preferable time schedule for the researcher to meet the respondents was during day time.

1.7. Significance of the study

- The study was to help policy makers to recognize the role of NGOs in promoting community participation among the youths in Uganda. This would further guide them when making community development policies in regards to youth empowerment and development.
- It served as reference to students and researchers in the area of NGOs, youth empowerment and community development.
- The study also helped the researcher to obtain a bachelor's degree of development studies at Kampala international university.

1.8. Definition of key concepts

Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs): This refers to organizations that are not directly controlled by the government but act as independent voluntary association for some common purpose Disketty, Mumbai (1991).

Health: This defined as the state of complete physical, mental spiritual, economic and social wellbeing of the body but not just the absence of infirmity Pyle, Oakley (1989).

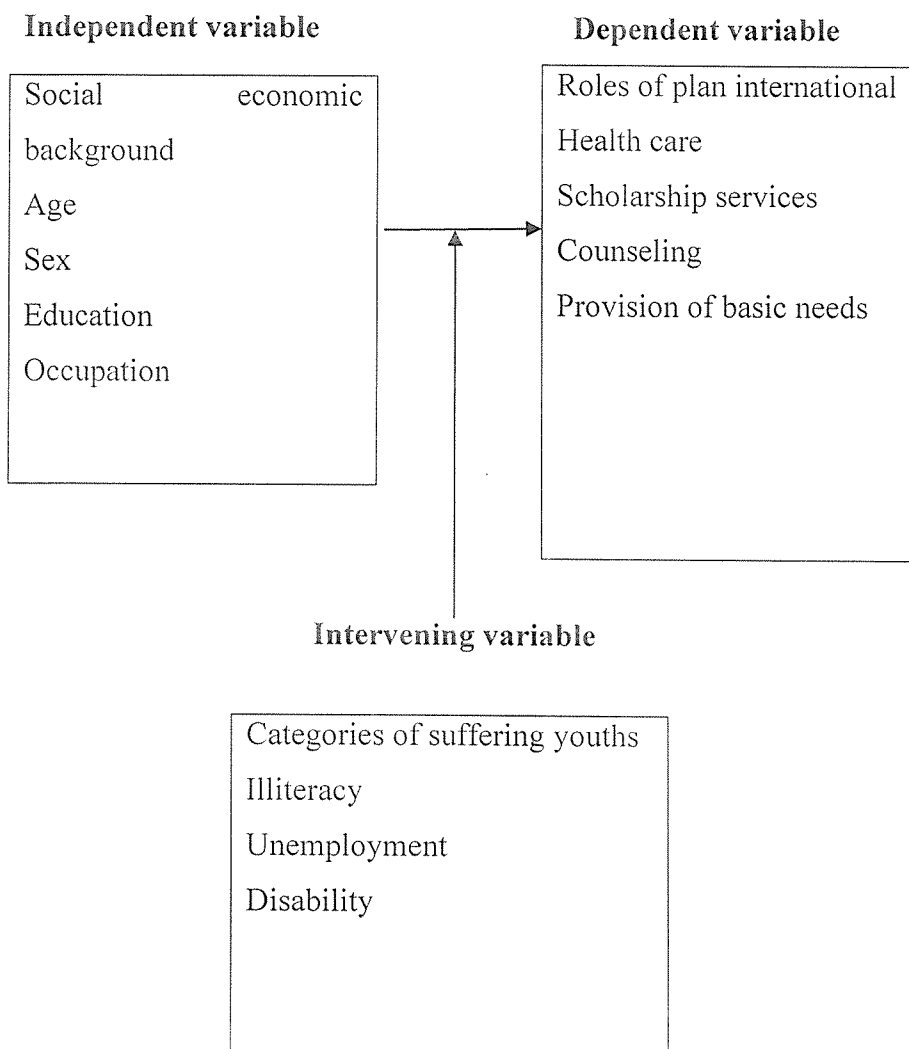
Education: This is defined as a process by every society to preserve and upgrade the accumulated knowledge, skills and attitudes in its cultural setting and heritage, in order to

foster continuously the wellbeing of mankind and guarantee their survival against hostile and destructive elements Okech, Anthony (2004).

1.9. Conceptual frame work

Most Ugandan youths live in a prevailing condition where majority are, illiterate and unemployed, caused by high level of poverty. Poor socio-economic backgrounds of their (youth) parents, such as low levels of education, low income, have influenced their lives and the inherent result is economic hardship and suffering. This therefore, attracts NGOs (Plan International Uganda) to come and give aid through counseling, provision of basic needs such as shelter, medical care, food and scholarship, sensitization programmes and community support services.

The conceptual framework showing the independent, dependent and the intervening variables



Source: Mitchel, Brown et al (1980)

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a review of related literature, the assessment of NGOs and its role in empowerment of youth. Though various studies are carried out about NGOs, little has been documented about their role in improving the wellbeing of the communities they are operating in especially as concerns youth empowerment.

The chapter will involve the historic development of NGOs in Uganda, the situation of youths and youth empowerment programmes, the NGO's involvement in the youth empowerment, the rationale for NGOs participation in youth empowerment and development and the challenges NGOs face in carrying out their activities Hussein Maydama, (2004),

During the mid1990s, there was a pivot in development thinking, with most development practitioners, NGOs and donor organizations adjusting to the concept of community participation. After realizing that community development as a process must strongly involve and be conducted by community members, NGOs changed their mode of operation to incorporate more locals and community members Morgan, Lowell (1993). Because of these concepts, initial emphasis was placed on empowerment which enables local people to plan, implement and make decisions on their own. Thus, to date community participation is widely viewed as an empowering tool through creating opportunities for the local people, changing attitudes of the local people, mobilizing existing skills, thinking differently about community issues and having a self-drive mindset that will in turn enhance rural development and poverty alleviation Krishna, Dutta (2003).

According to Jack, Lentfer (2011), the concept of community participation influences decisions that affect people's lives and is an avenue for empowering people. Dukeshire, Steven (2002) argues that development emphasizes not just community participation, but governance, with particular emphasis on democratic decentralization. Decentralization has become a particular mode of development administration, not only to accelerate development, but also to develop administrative arrangements for planning and managing development programmes and projects Conveyors, Drenkelford (1990), This derives from participatory democracy, which is guided by the philosophy that people should have decision-making

power in proportion to how they are affected by the decision Raaflaub, Kurt (2007). It is clear that democratic decentralization and participation are necessary conditions for successful community development. Many developing countries, including Uganda have embarked on decentralization of government and development structures among others, to promote democratic governance and community participation in development Hussein, Maydama, (2004), Following independence in 1962, the new government of Uganda adopted a socialist ideology, which had people participate in decision making and development programmes Makumbe, J (1996).

2.1 Historical development of NGOs in Uganda

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group which is organized on a local, national or international level. Task oriented and driven by people with a common interest, NGOs perform a variety of service and humanitarian functions, bring citizen concerns to Governments, advocate and monitor policies and encourage political participation through provision of information. Some are organized around specific issues, such as human rights, environment or health. They provide analysis and expertise, serve as early warning mechanisms and help monitor and implement international agreements. Their relationship with offices and agencies of the United Nations system differs depending on their goals, their venue and the mandate of a particular institution Okech, Anthony (2004),

The last decade has been marked by an increased involvement of the Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in the development process. This in part reflects the frustration and impatience with what is perceived to be the failure of governmental development assistance either to generate growth or to reach the poor. The success of nongovernmental initiatives such as Bangladesh has been put forth in the development circles as illustration of NGO potential. An increased role for NGOs has been made possible by traditional donors' own frustration with governments of poor countries and their renewed interest in decentralization and civil society hence their willingness to experiment with funding domestic NGOs in recipient countries Trudy Owens, (2003)

The post- colonial governments intension towards NGOs was clearly to reduce their role and ultimately to style them. This was due to the prosperity of the economy which enabled the government to have resource to extend its own presence but because the state could not

manage to cover all areas of the country, more or less tolerance attitudes towards NGOs were maintained but this clearly meant to be only for a limited time Krishna, Dutta (2003), Even if during the golden era of Uganda, the state had little choice to leave the extension of services to NGOs especially in the more remote rural areas, the assumption always was that NGO involvement would be transitional, pending state take over once resources are allowed. The advent of the Amin regime in 1971 marked a change in the environment for service provision under the new regime the economy stagnated, state institutions were further suppressed. This resulted into foreign NGOs withdrawing their support or keeping away from the country Britai, Haggard (2005).

After the fall of Amin's regime in 1979 (the international community renewed its interest in the country for instance during 1979 and 1980, several British as registered NGOs such as ACORD, OXFAM, ACTION AID and save the children fund established or re-established in Uganda.

During the second Obote regime (1981-1985), there was a sudden proliferation of local NGOs which emerged in response to the vacuum created by many years of the collapse of state that provided services Jeremy, Rifkin (2003), Thus the NGOs played a substitutive role for state services in the wake of political, economic and security deterioration. The end of the civil war in 1986 and the coming of OWCF of National Resistance Movement (NRM) government and it was due to the peace ushered in by the NRM government that NGOs attracted to come and provide relief assistance to the suffering Ugandans.

2.2 Background

Since the mid-1990s there have been an accelerating evolution participatory methodologies, themes and theories which have been adopted by development practitioners and non-governmental organizations to engage rural communities in development projects John, Erickson (2003). These different approaches have been used as a vehicle to give attention to rural development. Krishna, Dutta (2003), *Escaping poverty and becoming poor*: who gains, who loses and why? World Development 32 No. www.elsevier.com accessed 23 February 2012 validated this notion, using the rural development ideas timeline which traces development approaches from as far as 1950s. The device of a timeline is a list of a great number of themes, participatory approaches and policy thrusts that have been influential in rural development.

2.3 Role of plan international Uganda Busia branch project in Majanji Sub- County

- i. Learning: Plan International Uganda Busia branch is a learning organization. The learning is constantly used in redefining the development strategies of the organization. Ever since its inception continuous learning has influence the mode of policy planning concerning youth empowerment services Uganda Busia branch.
- ii. A holistic approach to poverty alleviation: Plan International Uganda Busia branch believes that poverty is not only lack of income or employment but also a complex syndrome manifested in a variety of dimensions. Therefore along with income and employment generation
- iii. Development activities: Plan international Uganda Busia branch works for development of organization of the poor especially youth, awareness building, children's education, health, gender, equality and providing training for human resources development and so on. Poverty is looked upon holistically.
- iv. Participation of youth in development process: Youth empowerment services Uganda-Busia branch is promoting anew culture in the development field with youth in the forefront of all activities for example most of the recipients of credit are youth 96% at the end of 1998, 70% students and 80% of the teachers of youth empowerment services Uganda Busia branch schools are female and health and poultry workers are also all youth. Plan international Uganda Busia branch intends to serve as a number of the poor people as possible. Plan international Busia branch believes that 'small' is beautiful but 'big' is necessary.
- v. Sustainability: Plan International Uganda Busia branch looks at sustainability from two angles sustainability of the impact of plan international Uganda Busia branch intervention on its participants and sustainability of plan international Uganda Busia branch itself.

2.4 Challenges faced by plan international Uganda Busia branch project in youth empowerment

The positive step and achievements made for improvement and development are not without challenges although the successes made by plan international Uganda Busia branch towards the improvement of the quality of life and health of youth within the context of the MDGs and the different development cores are great, at the macro level, the gains are modest in comparison to the overall magnitude of the problem. Steps towards social change are met with cultural resistance at all levels and country's people live below the poverty line and majority

are youth giving Uganda the dubious distinction of having the highest incidence of poverty in rural areas particularly Majanji Sub-County making it a big challenge. Uganda's maternal mortality rate remains at unacceptably high level even though the country has a relatively strong national policy regarding maternal health care considering that maternal mortality is a challenge. (National population and housing census report, 2014)

2.5 Theoretical Perspective

Empowerment theory

The theory of empowerment is a social psychiatric theory that directly relates to the field of social work and studies. Empowerment is looked at in many situations, including in the work to improve the chances of getting a job.

It is the process where power can be developed, facilitated or "secured" with the purpose of enabling challenged individuals or groups to increase their resources, improve their self-esteem and build up the ability to act on their own in psychological, socio cultural, political and economic situations Staples H.L (1990)

Kotler, Phillip (1999), theory of structural empowerment includes a discussion of organizational behavior and empowerment.

According to this theory, empowerment is promoted in work environments that provide employees with access to information, resources, support and the opportunity to learn and develop.

Michal, Kluska et al (2004), have noted that psychological empowerment includes feelings of competence, autonomy, job meaningful and an ability to impact the organization employees who are empowered are more committed to the organization for, more accountable for their work and better able to fulfill job demands in an effective manner Robert, Degner (2005).

Kotler's theory has been widely applied to the practice of social works Kluska et al; Mangold et al (2006), Siu et al (2005), showing how structures within the work place that facilitate access to resources can empower employees their work in more meaningful ways.

As noted by Erickson et al (2003), empowerment is thought to occur when an organization sincerely engages people and progressively responds to this engagement with mutual interest and intention to promote growth.

Empowerment develops overtime as employees gain greater control over their lives and increasingly take part in decisions which affect them. “The findings of Erickson et al, have suggested that membership on a collaborative governance committee increased the participant’s sense of empowerment and fostered in self growth and organizational development”.

Plan international empowers its staff through the provision of training programs offered by the organization such as education, health care, scholarship. These programs equip employees with information on their services for easy access to the recipients.

Plan international helps people obtain resources. People often have little knowledge about various available resource systems. So practitioners often perform the role of a broker in referring people to resource systems such as public legal services, health care agencies, and family counselling agencies and among others. Practitioners thus assume the role of a case manager which involves not only providing direct services but also assuming responsibility of linking the needed services in a timely fashion. Morgan, Lowell (1993)

Plan international also encourages community participation. Through this process, individuals and families assume responsibility and develop their capacity to contribute to development. This enables them to become more agents for their own development instead of being passive beneficiaries.

It is a process by which people are enabled to become actively and genuinely involved in defining the issues of concern to them, in making decisions about factors that affect their lives in formulating and implementing policies, in planning, developing and achieving services and taking action to achieve change. (World Health Organization, 2002)

Plan international promotes community empowerment that enables communities to increase control over their lives. It is therefore, more than the involvement, participation or engagement of communities. It implies community ownership and action that explicitly aims

at social and political change and it recognizes that if some people are going to be empowered, then others will be sharing existing power and giving some of it up, Mitchel ,Brown et al (1980)

2.6 Economic, Social and Cultural rights on empowerment theory

Economic, social and cultural rights are socio-economic human rights such as the right to education, right to adequate standards of living, right to health, right to housing and the right to science and culture. Economic, social and cultural rights are recognized and protected by both international and regional human rights instruments. Nation states have a legal obligation to respect, protect and fulfill economic, social and cultural rights and to take “progressive action” towards their fulfillment. The universal declaration on human rights recognizes a number of economic, social and cultural rights and the international covenant on economic, social and cultural rights (ICESCR) is the primary international legal source of economic social and cultural rights. The convention on the rights of the child and convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women recognizes and protects many of the rights recognized in the (ICESCR) in relation to children and women. Therefore, the right to healthcare, shelter, food, education and other forms of basic needs are the fundamental rights of any human being. In essence, the youths of Uganda particularly youths in Busia are entitled to assistance, support and empowerment programmes that will help them get out of ravaging poverty prevailing in their county.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter explains the research methods used during the process of conducting the research. They included the research design, the study population, sample size and selection, sampling techniques, data collection methods, data collection instruments and analysis.

3.1. Research design

This is the plan of carrying out the research exercise. It is an outline of approaches to be used in answering research questions. The research employed both qualitative and quantitative methods. A qualitative method was for description purposes and explained the role of NGOs in promotion of community participation among the youths in Uganda with focus on Majanji sub-county. The information gathered was interpreted in a descriptive form. Quantitative research design involved the use of tables and figures to represent and interpret the information gathered from respondents.

3.2. The study population

Study Population is a study of a group of individuals taken from the general population who share a common characteristic, such as age, sex, profession or health condition. Furthermore, it is the collection of specific group of human being or non-human entities such as educational institutions, units of geographical areas for research purpose Julian, Rappaport (2000), In this study, the respondents included NGO officials, community leaders, and youth leaders working or residing in Busia County. The population size was 150 respondents.

3.3. Sample Size

The researcher used solver's formula to determine the sample size for the study. Solver's formula is given as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e^2)}$$

Where:

- n = the required sample size
- N = the known population size
- e = the level of significance, which is fixed at 0.05

To determine the sample size for the study:

$$\begin{aligned}
 n &= \frac{150}{1+150 (0.05^2)} \\
 &= \frac{150}{1+150 (0.0025)} \\
 &= \frac{150}{1+0.375} \\
 &= \frac{150}{1.375} \\
 &= 109
 \end{aligned}$$

Table 1: 3.1 showing the research population and the sample size.

TYPE OF RESPONDENTS	NUMBER OF POPULATION	SAMPLE SIZE
Community development officers	5	5
Manager plan international	5	5
Youths	80	55
Elders	45	35
Local leaders	15	09
TOTAL	150	109

Source: Krejcie & Morgan, (1970)

3.4 Sampling techniques

Both probability and non-probability sampling techniques were used in the study. For probability sampling, simple random and systematic random sampling techniques were applied while for non-probability sampling, purposive and judgmental sampling techniques were applied.

3.5 Data collection methods

Data collection methods that were used in the study included; interviews - observation and group discussions and questionnaires.

3.5.1. Interviews

The study employed an open ended interview, where I imposed questions to the respondents, who then explained and discussed their answers. It was a face to face interaction or encounter between the researcher and the respondents.

3.5.2. Questionnaires

This is an instrument that was used to collect data information of questions drafted in a way that respondents have to answer the questions and then return them to the researcher. These were designed to be filled by respondents. They were both open ended and close ended questionnaires.

3.6. Ethical consideration

Before embarking on the study, the researcher obtained a letter of introduction from the Dean Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Head of Department of Development Studies that introduced the researcher to the area where the study was conducted. In addition, a clearance letter was obtained from the management of Plan International Majanji branch by the researcher, to enable her collect data from staffs of the organization that was part of the respondents.

3.7. Data analysis

Analysis of data means studying the tabulated material in order to determine inherent facts or meanings. The researcher analyzed the data with the help of SPSS computer program to draw conclusions and recommendations.

3.8. Limitation of the study

The research encountered financial limitation in the course of the research. Transportation expenses, the researcher incurred transport costs to move from Kampala to Majanji - Busia. The total cost was around Seventy thousand Shillings (70,000.00 UGX). However the researcher managed to solicit financial assistance from relatives and friends to cater for the

transport costs. In addition, the researcher also experienced challenges in collecting data from the respondents. This is because most of the respondents in Majanji are mainly peasant farmers and fishermen, whereby most of the time they are either in their farms cultivating or at the lake fishing. Consequently, the researcher had to schedule series of appointments with the respondents through phone calls before being able to meet with them for interviews, to give or retrieve questionnaires.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter covers presentation, analysis and interpretation of data that was obtained from the field. It covers the analysis of the demographic data and the research objectives.

4.1 Analysis of demographic data

This part involved presentation and analysis of demographic data obtained from the field.

4.1.1 Demographic characteristics

Table 2 : 4.1 showing the gender of respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	51	46.8
Female	58	53.2
TOTAL	109	100

Source: Primary Data

Out of 109 respondents interviewed, 51 (46.8%) were male and 58 (53.2%) were female. This implies that both sexes were significantly involved in the research, though male respondents were slightly higher than female respondents. Furthermore, the findings of the research present minimal bias, given the fact that gender variation was made minimal.

Category of respondents

Table 3 : 4.2 showing the category, number and the percentage of the respondents

Category of respondents	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Community development officers	05	4.6
Managers Plan International	05	4.6
Youths	55	50.4
Elders	35	32.1
Local leaders	09	8.3
Total	109	100

Source: Primary Data

Out of 109 respondents interviewed, 5 (4.6%) were community development officers, 5 (4.6%) were officials of plan international, 55 (50.4%) were youths, 35 (32.1%) were elders and 09 (8.3%) are local leaders as seen in the table above.

4.2 Presentation and analysis of data: The contributions of NGOs to youth empowerment

4.2.1 Asset creation

Plan international facilitates young women and men's access to finance, including financial literacy and the development of a savings culture through "Savings Groups and Clubs." Plan international's programs have reached over 2000 Savings Group members in Majanji Sub County, of which 60 percent are women and girls, and 1300 are children and youths under age 25 representing 65 percent of the members.

4.2.2 Pre-employment competencies

To succeed in the job market, youths need socio-emotional and life skills and information. Plan international pre-employment competencies build self-confidence, leadership and communication skills and also help youths access information on basic rights, career counseling; financial education and sexual, reproductive, and health rights.

These competencies help youths not only to get jobs but more importantly to keep them.

Plan international's life skills and entrepreneurship programming also prepares young entrepreneurs for challenges ahead by building their resilience.

4.2.3 Youth engagement and leadership

Plan international youth's engagement programs serve young people both domestically and internationally. Through the Youth Leadership Academy and the work of Youth Advisory Boards, youths and particularly young women enhance their leadership skills and bring a youth voice to Plan's programs. Plan engages youths in advocacy platforms at local, national, and international levels. Young people also contribute to its program design, planning, monitoring, and evaluation work.

4.2.4 Focus on adolescent girls

Plan international targets the most excluded and vulnerable youths and much of its programming focuses on adolescent girls. Evidence shows that young women are the most affected by unemployment due to gender inequality, motherhood at an early age and gender stereotypes. Masculinity programs that are essential to positive youths development, gender awareness stands as a foundational component of plan international youth empowerment programming. For example in Majanji Sub County, young men in our programs host puppet shows on themes of gender enabling them to speak openly on sensitive topics without shame or fear. Program participants report being less aggressive, more respectful and more engaged in household chores and they also acknowledge building new skills that could be used in their careers.

4.2.5 Partnership

Plan international works closely with local governments and private sector partners to address the skills and employment gaps young people face. Accordingly, they identify market-oriented solutions that can work at scale. Plan international's experience and long-standing relationships with government entities are used to influence positive changes in national and international policies. It is actively engaged in the World Bank's Solutions for Youth Employment (S4YE) initiative and many other U.S.-based youth-focused coalitions and centers.

Through Plan International, Majanji's Youths and Economic Empowerment programming, plan international is committed to the goal that young adolescents and youth will live in communities that value their participation and provide opportunities for their leadership and economic empowerment. As a result, the world will benefit from more economically stable nations with engaged citizens who actively contribute to their communities, (Response from Manager Plan international).

4.3 The contributions of plan international in the socio-economic development of youths in Majanji Sub County

4.3.1 Education

In the field of education, plan international Uganda Busia branch has impacted greatly in the District particularly in Majanji Sub-County whereby it improved on the capacity to avail better education opportunities hence better learning environment. This is through the construction of some schools and provision of scholastic materials in those schools. Some of the schools that have benefited from the project are Majanji primary school, Dadira primary school, Bulwande primary school among others. This has greatly helped on the improvement of education in the sub county.

4.3.2 Agriculture

Food production among the rural youth community, this was after survey carried out by the organization and discovered that some youths in the sub-county depend on subsistence agriculture and crops commonly grown were cassava, maize and beans. In this regard plan international Uganda Busia branch was able to purchase and issue out coffee seedlings to youth farmers. The coffee seedlings purchased were colonial type of coffee which takes less time and is of better yield as compared to the traditional species of coffee. Thereby, out of 500 targeted youth farmers in 2013, 300 of them had already got the coffee seedlings. Thus at least a reasonable number of youth farmers were practicing commercial farming which was to generate income to their household and consequently improving their standard of living (Response from a Community development officer).

Plan international Uganda Busia branch also purchased and distributed better breeds of animals to some youth who are into farming; especially those with children under plan international Uganda Busia branch program me. In this regard, a number of goats and cows were distributed.

Interviews with plan international Uganda Busia branch manager Busia revealed that 30 improved breed of goats, 400 local goats and 90 cows (heifers) had been distributed to young farmers through their children in programs (CIP) with the help of the LC1 chairperson in Sitengo village. The researcher was able to identify some of the families who benefited from the program. Other crops that were provided by the NGO were groundnut, soybeans, beans,

high yielding rice which takes only three months to harvest. All these were provided with the aim of improving living standards of youth farmers, as well as improve their incomes and financial status through the sale of the output from some of these products. Through focus group discussions and interviews with the residents of Majanji, the researcher was able to know that only children in programs (CIP) families were able to benefit under this programs. The respondents revealed that much as plan international Uganda Busia branch provides agricultural inputs, the search for markets was left to the beneficiaries.

4.3.3 Business

Furthermore plan international Uganda Busia branch has encouraged beneficiaries to identify income generating activities and in this regard it provided loans under (Entandikwa) credit scheme to some farmers. However, pre-loan assessment was done in accordance of whether the applicant has experience in the project and level of education. Thus the applicant's credibility would be enclosed by the projects shelter committee whose assessment of plan international Uganda Busia branch mostly depended on.

It was revealed that each successful applicant/ family received 200,000 UGX to carry on small agricultural enterprises. The project staff helped the people in identifying the right crops. Among the crops identified were rice, groundnuts, maize, vegetables and soybeans. Three workshops were carried out to educate the locals on how to use the credit facilities effectively and efficiently, (one of the local leader's response).

With the help of opinion leaders and project co-coordinators it was revealed that this credit scheme benefited most families and that about 70% of the families were already benefiting from the scheme in just a period of 3years. However, it is noted that most people failed to refund back the loans. Conclusively, plan international Uganda Busia branch involvement in income generating activities has been of a great significance to the rural youth in that they benefited from the arrangement including receiving of goats, cows and fishing boats by the people around the landing sites of Lake Victoria thus enhancing rural development. In addition, Plan international Uganda Busia branch operated "under a shelter program" for widows and vulnerable "children in programs" (CIP) families. The purpose of this project was to alleviate the consequences of poor shelter conditions by enabling poor families get access to adequate shelter and in the long run enhancing the productivity of their communities.

4.3.4 Housing

The project was launched in 2000 and first operated in Majanji. The objective of the project was to enable all vulnerable CIP families and unemployed youth with better housing conditions. The committee was set to facilitate community participation in project activities whereby this displayed an organizational role by the NGO. Under this project, a number of houses were built and a number of families benefited whereby out of 12 houses, nine were semi-permanent houses and three permanent houses which had been built by the year 2014.

Interviews with the community development facilitator revealed that 13 CIP families had been offered with 20 iron sheets each in a way of bettering their housing conditions. With regard to this information and data, the researcher learnt few families had benefited in the project and many may end up not benefiting from the project. Since only 13 out of 150 families have so far benefited in a period of 4 years. According to the survey carried out by researcher in the sub county. The researcher identified that very many people live in grass thatched houses with a few in semi-permanent houses.

Table 4: 4.3 A table showing the respondents living under grass thatched and semi-permanent houses.

Zones	grass thatched houses	Semi-Permanent Houses	Total
Sitengo	58	51	109
Majanji	44	65	109

Source: Primary Data

With reference to the table above it is evident that 53.2% of the people in Sitengo zone and 60% in Majanji zone live under semi-permanent houses whereas the percentage of people living under grass thatched houses is negligible. Thus the vulnerable CIP and unemployed youth families have benefited greatly from the housing project.

Plan international Uganda Busia branch also involved in Christian nurturing as one of its objectives hence spiritual development. This was aimed at improving leadership availed to the community under this project, better leadership and evangelical skills were practiced by the community leaders through nonresidential Sunday school teachers training. In this regard,

number of youths participated fully in Sunday school whereby 30 teachers were trained and out of the 5,000 targeted youth and children, 3000 people were able to access the gospel through Sunday school literature and sharing by the year 2011. With this data, it is evident that at least 60% of the children and youths were accessed with the gospel of good news in Jesus Christ. The organization (plan international Uganda Busia branch) brought a number of bibles and hymn books and distributed them out.

Interviews with the manager plan international Uganda Busia branch revealed that out of the 25 churches and 20 schools that were targeted to benefit from this project, 500 bibles and 548 hymn books were distributed to 10 churches and 17 schools respectively. Among the churches that benefited were Majanji church of Uganda (COU), Rugega church of Uganda (COU) and Christian fellowship church also Dadira Parish Majanji Sub-County, St. Charles lwanga catholic church Dadira.

4.4 Challenges youths face in accessing empowerment programmes and services

The NGOs operation in Majanji Sub-County was hindered by several bottlenecks according to sources from the respondents which include:

- Poor roads especially during the rainy seasons. The roads in Busia District in general and Majanji Sub County in particular are very poor and impassable especially during the rainy seasons. This do hinders the operations of the NGOs in the District and hence affecting the access of services by the youths from the NGOs. (Response from one of the youths).
- Community responsiveness was still a big problem to the NGOs whereby mobilization of the community to actively participate in the program designed to improve their welfare was still difficult. The local community viewed participatory approach as an inconvenience thus provision of local materials as bricks, sand, stones and clearing of sites by the locals for construction of schools was unwelcome.(Response from the chair person LC 1 Sitengo village).
- Some of the local leaders in Majanji Sub-County used to sabotage the NGO's programs since most of them believed in corruption and bribes. They were not willing to work as volunteers especially when it came to the time of mobilizing the local community to actively participate in the designed program. (One of the community elders).

- Inadequacy of funds was another problem faced by the NGO whereby money procured from the donor agencies was not regular and if available not enough little at times. This has caused delays in the implementation of certain components of the programs such as purchasing of the scholastics materials, school construction. In addition, NGOs funds were meant for specific programs which were decided on by the donors hence an acute problem as the NGO could not allocate funds according to the needs of the community. (Response from one of the community development officers)
- The NGO officials were being mistaken to be embezzling some of the funds of the youth groups who had sponsors/friends from America. This was the essence of the most officials bringing letters dedicated to the youths open and rubbing off sponsor's names, plus the NGO (plan international Uganda Busia branch) was no longer trusted by the local community.(Manager Plan international).
- The NGO also registered high dropouts of girl child in schools; many of the cases were due to premarital pregnancies. Hence counseling services, legal actions and sensitization seminars were being tried but little was achieved. (Manager Plan international).
- The methods of farming are poor and production is always at small scale to the extent that there is no surplus for sale to gain extra income.

4.4.1 Solutions to the challenges faced by the youths in accessing empowerment programmes and services

- Intervention of the local council (LCs) members to compel individuals to get engaged in the project. The local leaders should take to their people and encourage them to support the activities put in place by Non-Governmental Organizations as they are intended to improve on their livelihood.
- Construction of roads in the District. Plan international should liaise with Busia District local government to ensure that roads are constructed especially in sub counties where their projects are such as Majanji Sub County. This will enable them to easily have access to their activities and projects in those sub counties.

- Need to coordinate and partner with those organizations that offer markets to the products that the youths do produce. For example partnering with the Bugishu cooperative union to provide market for the colonial coffee.

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.0 Introduction

This chapter covers the discussion of the findings, conclusion and the recommendations.

5.1 Discussion

Non-governmental organizations such as Plan International has adopted a good approach towards empowerment and development of the youths, hence they should be supported and encouraged. Nevertheless, there are some issues which need to be adopted to streamline the operations of the NGOs such as plan international Uganda Busia branch in Majanji Sub-County Busia District. Although, assistance to girl child at secondary and tertiary levels through its UPE program is a welcome development, there is need for plan international Uganda Busia branch to consider remuneration package for its unpaid volunteers. This may motivate workers and will attract learned members of the populace to join volunteer services, no doubt, quality varies significantly depending on the quality of training in the projects but relying on nonprofessionals is costly. Thus, many volunteers may end up paying themselves from the sale of materials and items meant for the empowerment of programs. For instance, volunteers may sell drugs and farm products meant for free distribution to help improve the welfare and conditions of the poor. In addition, the recipients might not take their advice seriously because of lack of formal qualifications.

Government should boost NGOs activities at the grassroots level and should confine its roles of financial contributions and monitoring government agents like chiefs, administrators and local council executives should volunteer to work with plan international Uganda Busia branch in aspects of identifying people's needs and supervising the implementation of the projects.

Furthermore, mobilization of youth in Majanji sub-county since participatory approach is based on its basic philosophy that unless people are mobilized, they cannot take full advantages of the resources offered and goods and services will not be equally distributed. Mobilization can be done by plan international Uganda Busia branch itself or by government through its administrative hierarchical structure of Local Councils (LCs).

For empowerment of youth in Majanji Sub-County to be achieved plan international Uganda Busia branch or any NGO that might want to participate in Majanji should not perceive

empowerment in terms of education only, much as education is a key to empowerment. This was realized when plan international Uganda Busia branch concentrated much on education sector than any other sector that could bring about empowerment of rural youth in the sub-county.

Plan international Uganda Busia branch should carry out training and sensitization activities for village committees and LCs regarding health and development issues through capacity building so as to get knowledge which is sustainable and consequently essential to the sustainability of the activities.

Since NGO assistance is temporary and can easily be terminated NGOs such as plan international Uganda Busia branch should encourage youth to start more income generating activities such as small retail shops, coffee growing and many other income generating activities by giving the rural people loans to start these activities so as to meet some of their basic necessities like soap, paraffin, salt, match boxes, books, pens and clothing. This would create a spirit of self-reliance. Otherwise, rural development in Majanji Sub-County might remain more of a dream than a reality for some decades to come.

Therefore, NGOs should embark on this expensive venture jointly with district administration and the government at large. plan international Uganda Busia branch should not only improve the welfare of youth in terms of education, construction of better houses or provision of medications to the needy families but also improve the standard of living of these families in provision of goods in terms of balance diet, provision of bedding facilities such as mattresses, blankets and if possible bed sheets.

When parents of these children were interviewed, they were of the view that at least the money that is used to make charismas parties and buying gifts to these children in program (CIPS) should be channeled to the purchase of these bedding facilities.

Plan international Uganda Busia branch has done a great role in provision of mediation to vulnerable youth from poor families in Majanji Sub-County. This was realized by the data provided by the NGOs whereby 3073 cases were reported and attended to including 34 referrals. But these medication services should be extended to all people in the sub county especially those with big cases who need referrals to Mulago or other regional hospitals. This is because most people in the sub county are poor that they cannot afford medication bills of some complicated sicknesses hence resulting into death of most people due to poverty.

In addition there is need for plan international Uganda Busia branch to conduct a refresher training course for youth every year. This would help them to be up to date with current health situations. It should also carry out a sanitation sensitization campaign in both primary and secondary schools, this was realized when the researcher found out that there are few latrines compared to pupils in some schools.

There is need for plan international Uganda Busia branch to hold regular meetings with youths and also carry out research studies in the area of operation before activities are executed. This would help the organization to identify the problems of youths and the area they are in. This was realized when many people especially in Majanji parish expressed their problems and feelings to the researcher and it was found out that these were the most vulnerable people who actually needed assistance from plan international Uganda Busia branch.

There is also need for youth plan international Uganda Busia branch to extend the same services in the whole district. This is realized when most data and information of the research was basing on in Majanji Sub-County. This was a result of most activities being concentrated in one sub-county thus little data and information was available to other sub-counties of the district.

Much as plan international Busia branch has been involved in provision of coffee seedlings in conjunction with the government programs of Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA) it should also involve in other tree seedlings that are productive to the community as the Moraga coniferous which is used for extracting medicine for it and it's economically viable, other trees could be eucalyptus, mahogany to mention but a few.

Finally plan international Uganda Busia branch should continue its move of formulating aims and goals for youth empowerment in such basic human values, as education, health, the elimination of diseases and misery, poverty and to encourage a spirit of co-operation, equality and fair dealing. It is in this regard that everybody will be satisfied in what it has done. However, it should be noted that rural development is a multi-dimensional and gradual process that involves transformation of other aspects like communication services, GNP per capita, energy consumption, export per capita and political stability which are not yet promising in Majanji Sub-County Busia District.

5.2 Conclusions

NGOs such as Plan International Uganda Busia branch's contributes to the empowerment of youth in rural poor has been the major focus of this research project. The study examined the programmes/projects of plan international Busia branch in light of their contributions to youth's empowerment particularly in the area of education, health, water and sanitation, housing, agriculture income generating activities, relief provisions.

The study examines the contributions of plan international Uganda Busia branch and the challenges they face. The major issues identified were the terrain of the land, roads, negative committee responses, inadequacy of funds, corruption embezzlement, sabotage of NGOs programs by the local leaders and high dropouts of CIPs in schools. Furthermore, the study identified the challenges youths face in accessing plan international empowerment programmes and proffer possible solutions to those challenges. It is strongly believed that if the recommendations made in this study is fully implemented, it will foster improvement in the activities of Plan International and perhaps other NGOs operating in Majanji Sub-County and Busia district at large.

The study concludes that Plan International Uganda, Busia branch has played a great role towards the empowerment of youth in Majanji, Busia district. Much of its contributions have been seen in education and health sectors, which are key areas towards development. In addition, the welfare of the locals has generally been improved both in terms of material assistance and extension of services offered by Plan International and other NGOs operating in the sub county. Of particular note is the youths, who have received huge support through Plan International youth empowerment programmes, albeit challenges associated with accessing the programmes. Despite loopholes in executing some of the programmes of Plan International Uganda Busia branch, the organization has done well at-least in raising awareness about the need to deal with poverty in the county. Nevertheless, there is still a long way to go since empowerment of youths is gradual and development is a multifaceted phenomenon.

5.3 Recommendations

In view of the objectives, the study advances the following recommendations;

Plan international Uganda Busia branch programmes under the project of youth empowerment should expand its programmes and services to cover a bigger number of women and youths in

the sub county. The sponsorship of education should not be limited to primary education but should continue up to secondary and tertiary education level. This is because a primary seven leaver is not well equipped to handle contemporary challenges in global world.

Most importantly, when girls have only primary education, they end up constituting the unproductive proportion of the population and thus exacerbate rural poverty and under development in the country and the district in particular.

5.4 Future Research

The researcher also recommends future research on the following topics;

- An assessment of community participation in Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) development projects.
- The impact of Non-Governmental Organizations on poverty alleviation in communities.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YOUTHS / BENEFICIARIES OF NGOs PROGRAMME IN MAJANJI SUB-COUNTY BUSIA DISTRICT

Dear Survey Participant,

I am Nafula Lilian, REG BDS/43701/143/DU Development Studies student of Kampala University conducting research on The Role of Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) in Promotion of Community Participation among the Youth in Uganda. Case Study of Plan International Uganda Majanji Sub-County Busia District

PART ONE: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

1. Age:

18-28 years	28 – 38 years	38 years and above

2. Sex

MALE	FEMALE

3. Status

MARRIED	SINGLE

4. Level of education

Secondary	Polytechnic/institution level	University level

5. Parish of residence

.....

.....

6. Sub-county

.....

.....

7. Were you born in this area Yes/No?

Yes	No.

8. If No for how long have you been living in this area?

.....

.....

.....

9. Occupation of resident

.....

.....

10. Are you aware of any NGOS in this area?

.....

.....

11. If yes can you name them?

.....
.....

12. Have you ever received any assistance from these NGOS

.....
.....

13. If yes what type of assistance?

.....
.....

14. Are you still receiving the assistance from these NGOS?

.....
.....

15. If yes how often do you receive it?

.....
.....

16. What activities is the organization executing at the moment?

.....
.....

17. How have the people benefited from the organization's Activities?

.....

18. What constraints do you face when executing your programmes?

.....
.....

19. What lessons have you learnt in the process of executing your programmes?

.....
.....

20. What other programmes do you intend to embark on in future

.....
.....

21. If No, why (specify)

.....
.....

22. What programmes have the NGO now embarked on?

.....
.....

23. Are you pleased with NGOS principle of operation?

.....
.....

24. If no (Give reason for your answer)

.....
.....

25. In your opinion how can the mode of operation be improved

.....
.....

Thank you very much for your participation

9. What were their objectives when it started?

.....

.....

.....

10. Do you think the organization achieved its objectives?

.....

11. If no, what constraints did it face?

.....

.....

.....

.....

12. Is the organization still operating under the same objective?

.....

.....

13. If no, what are their current objectives?

.....

.....

14. What problems were you faced with before the coming of NGO in this area?

.....

.....

15. Do you still face these problems?

.....

.....

16. If no, how have they been solved?

.....
.....

17. Has any of the NGOs tried to reduce any of the problems?

.....

18. What were the NGOs programs by the time it came in this area?

.....
.....

19. Were you pleased with NGOs programs?

.....

Thank you very much for your participation