BRIEFING NOTE

TRAINING OF YOUTH IN PARTICIPATORY PLANNING AND BUDGETING

Introduction

UNICEF and CLADHO signed a partnership agreement on 30th November 2018 to implement the project on Citizens participation in National Planning and Budgeting for increased Accountability and Transparency in Rwanda. This project is part of PF4C interventions at country level (Objective 4 of UNICEF Global framework of Public Finance, which reads “Citizens including children and adolescents are empowered to monitor and participate in budget processes for more transparent and accountable spending”. The project in being implemented in 10 districts across the country where CLADHO an existing partnership with districts with the following main objectives:

1. Increase the capacity of children and adolescent to engage and participate in planning and budgeting processes;
2. Increase the capacity of key stakeholders (DJAF, Local leaders) in selected communities to support children and adolescent in participatory decision-making linked to planning and budget processes;

Youth Training Monitoring

In the process of implementing and the realizing the first objective (above) of the programme, CLADHO Organized the first round of training with youth coordinators from 50 sectors and social affairs officers who among other responsibilities oversee children issues at sector levels was organized in four training venues:

(i) Rubavu which gathered participants from Karongi, Musanze and Rubavu Districts; (ii) Huye which gathered together youth from Gisagara and Rusizi; (iii) Kicukiro- Classic Hotel which gathered together youth form Gasabo and Kicukiro districts and Bugesera site which gathered together youth from Rwamagana, Bugesera and Kamony districtsi. I attended trainings held in Rubavu and Bugesera.

As part of monitoring the way trainings were being provided, I have attended two trainings in Rubavu on the dates of 17th -18th April 2019 and Bugesera on the dates of 23rd- 24th 2019.

Observations

- **High turnout of trainees despite the busy time of preparation of performance contract and budget at all levels of the country:** In Rubavu and Bugesera all number of expected youth coordinators fully participated while among social affairs officers on 2 social affairs from Rwanda could not attended but with justified absence.
- **Across all training venues the district has allocated a senior official to oversee the training process and providing due feedback or emerging issues,** similarly the district executive management (Mayor or Vice Mayors) participated providing closing remarks. (i) at the training venue in Rubavu, **Vice Mayor in Charge of Economic Affairs** Mr. Murenzi Janvier presided over the closing and provided appreciating remarks and he emphasized the timeliness and uniqueness of building capacity of youth in participatory

Photo: 1: Group photo in Rubavu with Vice Mayor in charge of Social Affairs in long sleeve blue shirt.
planning and budgeting. He noted that participatory planning and budgeting has not been a subject which attracted districts’ partners' or civil society organization over the past years and he further pledged to continue providing due support from administrative side to ensure that the remaining project’s interventions are successfully implemented and requested youth coordinator to cascade capacities acquired among other youth committees at sector and cell levels.

(ii) In Bugesera, the Mayor of Bugesera District Mr. Richard MUTABAZI offered the closing remarks. In his remark the district mayor overemphasised the relevance of the training to the youth as large share of Bugesera population and their contribution to promotion of accountable governance, citizens’ engagement as well as of improved ownership of public projects/programme. It was an opportunity for the Mayor to pledge the scale up of the training of all youth representative (committees) across the district by taking advantage of the planned general assembly youth planned on 27th – 28th April 2019. As a result, among other items to be discussed by youth during their general assembly was budget cycle, participatory planning and budgeting. CLADHO in collaboration with MINECOFIN provided training facilitators on 27th to providing the training to the youth in summarized version. As results 147 youth in total were trained during district youth general assembly.

- **High interest among youth to the subject matter:** All training participants expressed and showed stronger interest and appetite to learn more about national budget cycle as well as to know more about their role in national budget planning process. Similarly, they expressed high-level satisfaction with the training content and committed to ensure that the rest of youth committees are also trained. They further committed their involvement in planning and budgeting processes. CLADHO committed to continue providing technical support to ensure that the ideas of youth are heard and considered in the national and district budget.
• **Stronger youth interventions were suggested in participatory action group:** The Youth participated in identifying sector level priorities (Practical working sessions) which could be used a reference during the next budget planning phase. CLADHO is elaborating a detailed report which shall be shared with the district administration, National Youth Council and MINECOFIN.

• **MINECOFIN Engagement:** MINECOFIN has also assigned a staff who supported providing the training particularly in Bugesera. The MINECOFIN trainer supported to offer summarize version to all youth in Bugesera. Having someone from MINECOFIN as a trainer strengthened the quality and credibility of the trainings being provided to the youth and social sector officers.

• National Youth Council pledged to provide support in mobilizing youth coordinators to attend the trainings and stronger involvement in national planning and budgeting processes. It is important to noted that National Youth Council nominated the director of planning to be with CLADHO along the whole training preparation and training delivery. This approach helped to mobilize youth.

• In overall CLADHO has a strong collaboration with district administration, National Youth Councils (NYC) and National Children Councils (NCC).

**Way forward**

- The Sector Youth coordinators will submit the training plans to build capacities of other youth committee members and shall be supported by CLADHO in all district of interventions;
- In the following year planning and budgeting phase, Youth shall be supported to gather their development priorities and be submitted to the district council for consideration;
- Training of children representatives shall be organized during 2nd term holidays, **Early-July and August 2019.**
- Building on experience from youth training, the training manual shall be reviewed to ensure that the content is more child sensitive.

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