



BUKEDI RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (BRUCI)

P.O. Box 300551, Agururu "B", Tororo, Uganda.

Tel: +256 (0) 200-947058

Email: info@bruci.org / bukediruralandurbancommunityin@gmail.com

Website: www.bruci.org

April 1, 2025

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: INVITATION TO SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN A THREE DAY TORORO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CAMP.

Greetings from Bukedi Rural and Urban Community Initiatives (BRUCI).

BRUCI is a national indigenous organization that was founded to empower rural and urban communities for self-reliance. BRUCI is head-quartered in Tororo District with a mandate to operate in any part of Uganda. BRUCI targets a cross-section of beneficiaries including vulnerable children, young mothers, elderly, adolescents, youth, vulnerable adults (women and men), persons living with sickle cells, HIV, Key population, persons with disability in hard to reach, underserved and disaster risk communities. BRUCI uses bottom-up and holistic empowerment approaches to build community led groups and approaches that focus on individual behavior and mindset change amongst vulnerable communities for sustainable livelihood transformation. BRUCI's core programme areas include; Governance and Human Rights; Disaster Risk Reduction and Environmental Protection; Community Health and Education; Resilient and Sustainable Livelihood; Research, Innovation and Capacity Building.

BRUCI is certified by NGO Quality Assurance Certification Mechanism (QuAM) as one of the compliant, credible and accountable NGO in Uganda. BRUCI is part of the several network organisations including; Global Standards for Civil Society Organisations Accountability, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA), Charter for Change and Charter for accountability, among others.

BRUCI's vision is: *"A self-reliant, sustainable and holistically transformed Community"* and mission is: *"Building an empowered community through capacity building, economic empowerment, smart agriculture, linkages and networking for sustainable livelihoods and community-centered development."*

BRUCI in partnership with Tororo District Youth Advocacy Network(TDYAN) are planning to hold a three (3) day youth empowerment camp in Tororo district from May 28-30, 2025 which is a youth skills improvement and a mindset change event that brings together youths bi-annually (every May and October) organized by BRUCI with support from other partners. The youth empowerment camp is driven under the theme *"Fueling Youth Dreams for Sustainable Development."* The aim of the youth empowerment camp is to empower youths with opportunities, innovations and resilient mindset skills for a more inclusive and sustainable future. The youth empowerment camp targets youths aged 15-30 all over Tororo district and Bukedi Sub-region. This activity is 100% youth led including the planning, budgeting and implementation. This camp

will further equip youths with skills, knowledge, and opportunities to become active, responsible, and contributing members of society, fostering entrepreneurial skills and promoting community engagement (Please refer to the attached concept note and budget for more details about the youth camp).

Therefore, the purpose of this letter is to invite you and your organization/entity to support the Tororo youth empowerment camp by contributing financially or in any way towards the attached budget and to become an official partner of this event. As the official partner, you will join all the planning meetings and the main program, participate in all activities and processes. The official partner's logo will also be included in all the event IEC materials of the event and you will be given space to advertise and sell your products to the participants during the three days camp and many more benefits.

Do not hesitate to reach out to us in case of any further information or clarification on +256 (0)765-196-626 or +256 (0)707-858-523 or mbabirye@bruci.org or bukediruralandurbancommunityin@gmail.com. We are also available in case you may require a physical or virtual meeting for us to expound more about this event. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Babirye Mariam,
Executive Director.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CAMP

CONCEPT NOTE.

1.0 INTRODUCTION OF THE ORGANISER(S).

Bukedi Rural and Urban Community Initiatives (BRUCI) is a national organization that was founded with the aim of empowering rural and urban communities for self-reliance. BRUCI is an indigenous organisation headquartered in Tororo District, targeting a cross-section of beneficiaries who include vulnerable children, adolescents, youth, vulnerable adults (women and men), persons living with sickle cells, HIV, Key population, persons with disability in hard to reach and underserved communities. BRUCI uses bottom-up and holistic empowerment approaches to build community led groups that focus on individual behavior change amongst vulnerable communities for sustainable livelihood transformation. BRUCI's core programme areas include; Governance and Human Rights; Disaster Risk Reduction and Environmental Protection; Community Health and Education; Resilient and Sustainable Livelihood; Research, Innovation and Capacity Building.

BRUCI's vision is: "A self-reliant, sustainable and holistically transformed Community" and mission is: "Building an empowered community through capacity building, economic empowerment, smart agriculture, linkages and networking for sustainable livelihoods and community-centered development."

BRUCI is organizing this event in partnership with Tororo District Youth Advocacy Network (TDYAN) is a Youth-led, Youth focused and Child centered Civil Society Organization committed to creating a lasting impact on the lives of vulnerable populations in Tororo district, Uganda. The organization focuses on empowering youth including adolescent girls and young women through sustainable programs that prioritize human rights protection, fulfilment and enjoyment, sexual reproductive health, education promotion and skills development. Through collaborations with individuals, families, communities, cultural and religious institutions, government departments and both local and international partners, TDYAN continues to be a beacon of hope to many young people and youth in Tororo District. Its efforts are not only changing individual lives but are transforming entire communities by promoting gender equality and equity using a rights-based approach, advocating for reproductive justice, fostering public health awareness and livelihood opportunities for youth and young people in Tororo district.

TDYANs vision is "A vibrant, empowered and healthy young population actively contributing to their own and community development" and mission is "To strengthen youth empowerment and development initiatives through promoting partnerships, capacity building, and mentorship in a civil society that promotes self and state accountability."

2.0 PROBLEM/OPPORTUNITY.

The Bukedi sub-region of Uganda is made up of the six (6) districts that include Tororo, Busia, Budaka, Kibuku, Butaleja, and Pallisa. Bukedi sub-region is located in eastern Uganda. UBOS indicates that Bukedi sub-region contribution to national poverty increased from 9.6% in 2016/2017 to 10.4% in 2021/2022 further more UNICEF 2020 report on Uganda's multi-dimensional poverty profile, the Bukedi sub region exhibits significant levels of poverty due to low agricultural production. The report indicates that 83% of the households in Bukedi are experiencing absolute poverty.

Agriculture is the cornerstone of Uganda's economy, engaging approximately 80% of households and contributed to 24% of the nation's GDP in 2019/2020(UBOS). Rural communities that are resilient on agricultural face worsening poverty due to declining soil fertility, unsustainable farming practices and climate change, continuous land degradation caused by poor soil management, deforestation and excessive chemical use has reduced soil productivity limiting food production and economic opportunities for small holder farmers. This issue is further compounded by climate change which brings erratic rain fall, prolonged droughts and extreme weather events thus making farming increasingly unpredictable.

Tororo District has a population of approximately 604,996, with around 373,317 youths/young people aged 15-30. Since the onset of the covid-19 pandemic, the Tororo district has seen a troubling 62% youth unemployment rate and a 29.5% rate of teenage pregnancies, higher than the national average of 25% among girls aged 15-19 years.

The youth in Tororo face significant challenges including high unemployment, limited exposure to emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), lack of quality education and training, limited access to healthcare and clean water, gender-based violence, and accessing quality and accessible Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRHR) services and lack of resilience in navigating socio-economic hardships. Many young people struggle to access quality education, digital skills training and mentorship which hinders their ability to compete in the modern job market or create sustainable businesses. Additionally while AI is reshaping industries globally, the youth in Tororo have limited opportunities to learn about the application and leverage it for innovation and economic growth. Without urgent interventions these challenges will continue to limit youth potential, increased dependency and slow down economic progress in our district. There is a critical need for initiatives that provide young people with digital literacy, AI knowledge, problem solving skills and resilient mindset to ensure they can thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

Though a young population can be a source of potential for economic growth and development in Uganda, there is need for investing in education, skills development, and youth empowerment programs to help Tororo and Uganda at large to achieve its goals of improving child survival, increasing educational attainment, accelerating economic growth, and reducing poverty. Hence the need for Tororo youth empowerment camp. The Tororo Youth Empowerment Camp presents a unique opportunity to equip young people with AI driven innovation skills while fostering a resilient and entrepreneurial mindset with the increasing adoption of AI in sectors such as agriculture, healthcare and business.

3.0 SITUATION ANALYSIS.

Tororo like many other regions in Uganda faces high youth unemployment rates with limited access to

sustainable job opportunities. Many young people lack skills required for the evolving job market making it difficult for them to compete in the digital economy. The need for innovative and technology driven solutions to address these challenges is urgent. Despite the global rise of AI and digital innovation, awareness and adoption of these technologies among the youth in Tororo remain low.

Many young people have limited exposure to AI concepts, digital legacy and emerging career path in Technology. This knowledge gap hinders their ability to leverage AI for entrepreneurship, job creation and sustainable development. Youth in Tororo face various socio-economic challenges including poverty, limited access to quality education and inadequate mentorship opportunities. Many lack resilience and problem solving skills necessary to navigate these challenges. Developing a growth mind set, adaptability and entrepreneurial thinking is crucial for youth to turn obstacles into opportunities. There is increasing recognition from the government, private sector and development organizations about the need to invest in youth empowerment. Uganda's vision 2040 and other national policies emphasize technology driven growth and skills development.

However, there is a need for more localized efforts to equip youth with practical skills in AI and innovations. AI is transforming industries such as agriculture, healthcare, education and business. If youth in Tororo can gain AI knowledge and skills, they can develop innovative solutions tailored by their community's needs. This can lead to job creation, improved service delivery and a more competitive local economy. While technology adoption is growing, many young in Tororo still lack access to digital infrastructure, internet, connectivity and practical training in AI related fields. Addressing these gaps through workshops, mentorships and hands on projects will be key to ensuring long term impact.

Tororo Youth Empowerment camp presents a timely opportunity to address these challenges by equipping young people with AI skills fostering resilience and promoting innovation for sustainable future through collaborative efforts, youth can be empowered to create solutions, generate employment and contribute to regional development.

4.0 ABOUT THE ACTIVITY

Tororo youth empowerment camp is skills improvement and a mindset change event that brings together youths bi-annually (every May and October) organized by BRUCI in Partnership with TDYAN with support from other partners. The youth empowerment camp is driven under the theme ***“Fueling Youth Dreams for Sustainable Development.”*** The aim of the youth empowerment camp is to empower youths with opportunities, innovations and resilient mindset skills for a more inclusive and sustainable future. The youth empowerment camp targets youths aged 15-30 around Tororo district and Bukedi as a sub-region.

This activity is 100% youth led including the planning, budgeting and implementation. This camp will further equip youths with skills, knowledge, and opportunities to become active, responsible, and contributing members of society, fostering entrepreneurial skills and promoting community engagement.

5.0 PARTICIPANTS AND VENUE.

The Tororo youth empowerment camp is expected to receive 500 youths physically and 500 youths virtually via Zoom, Twitter and Facebook. The second level of participants will be the partners that will support this camp like NGOs, Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Banks, telecom companies, private sector, schools, universities, churches, colleges, Health centers and hospitals,

The venue will be BRUCI Head Office located near Eliora Hotel, behind Link Way Hotel, Agururu B2 Ward, Western Division, Tororo, Uganda.

6.0 ENVISAGED CHANGES (OUTCOMES)

By the end of the Tororo youth empowerment camp the following changes will be realised among youths in Tororo district.

- a) Increased employability.
- b) Increased economic opportunities.
- c) Increased civic engagement.
- d) Greater participation in decision-making.
- e) Increased access to resources.
- f) Active participation in community and government programmes.
- g) Mindset change among youths.
- h) Improved income levels.
- i) Increased economic participation and social stability.
- j) Increased access to resources.
- k) Increased knowledge in smart agriculture.
- l) Increased knowledge in poultry farming, goat rearing, value addition, record keeping, and digital marketing.
- m) Improved confidence and self-motivation among youths.
- n) Increased understanding of AI applications in agriculture, business, healthcare and education.

7.0 EXPECTED OUTPUTS.

The youth empowerment camp will have the following outputs;

- Youth empowerment camp held.
- Youth empowerment camp report (this will be detailed and shared among all partners).
- 500 youths empowered with opportunities, innovations and resilient mindset skills.
- Networking opportunities created.
- Job opportunities created.
- Skills transfer and knowledge sharing.
- 5000 trees planted
- At least 500 youth trained in AI basics, digital legacy and end emerging technologies.
- Youth led startups and entrepreneurship innovations launched using AI solutions.
- At least 80% of attendees to report a positive change in their outlook on career and innovation.
- Youth equipped with problem solving, adaptability and entrepreneurship mindset cultivated.
- At least 100 youth connected to mentorship, internship or employment opportunities.
- Stronger partnerships between youth, private sector and government agencies.

8.0 TIME FRAME

The youth empowerment camp will be a three day activity from May 28-30, 2025 starting from 9.00am to 3.00pm.

9.0 PROPOSED AGENDA

The three days youth empowerment have will have both main and side activities;

MAIN ACTIVITIES	SIDE ACTIVITIES AND SKILLING
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internship programs.• Smart Agriculture (Back yard gardening, poultry farming, goat rearing).• Research and innovations (making a living out of their smart phones).• Volunteer programs (preparing youths for employment opportunities).• Entrepreneurship skills (record keeping, digital marketing, value addition).• AI and Innovation• Networking, linkages and team building• Social enterprise• Financial literacy.• etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back yard gardens.• Liquid soap making.• Football match.• Volley ball match.• Net ball match.• HIV screening and counseling.• Organic manure making.• Poultry and goat rearing• Tree planting.• Mushroom growing.• Bank account opening.• Sim card and mobile money registration.• Blood donation.• Sanitary pad making.• Music Dance and Drama.• etc