Collective Action for the Promotion of the Rights of Youths Living with Disabilities (CAPRIY)

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I. INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION

Organization submitting the project proposal: Action Foundation Common Initiative Group (AFCIG)

Status of the organization: Local youth-led or youth-focused NGO

Statutes document: AFCIG REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE.pdf

Year of creation of the organization: 2007

Examples of previously implemented projects:

a) Youth Electoral rights project - YERP (www.facebook.com/youthofaction):
Funded by the US embassy in Cameroon to the tune of $10 000, YERP mobilized over 100 000 youths in Cameroon to register on the newly constituted electoral register in North West Cameroon, from June 2012 to July 2013. The initiative combated voter apathy amongst these youths and promoted their active participation in the electoral process. It made use of a wide range of innovative approaches including using social media to reach out to thousands of youths to educate them about their political rights and responsibilities as citizens of Cameroon. It resulted in record numbers of youths successfully registering to stand for public office in the upcoming 2013 parliamentary and local council elections.

b) Your Health, Your Say – YHYS (www.facebook.com/yourhealthyoursay):
Administered by the Catholic Relief Services and financed by the World Bank in Cameroon to the tune of $27,000, YHYS is the first youth-led, pro good governance initiative implemented in North West Cameroon that makes use of whistle blowing to combat bribery and corruption. These whistle-blowers discretely recruited from amongst staff of public hospitals gather information on malpractices taking place in these institutions and submit to YHYS. The information is used to publicly denounce perpetrators of these malpractices using Facebook, Press Conferences and an online platform designed specifically for public denunciation (www.healthvoice.afcig.org). Over 300 specific acts of corruption were investigated and perpetrators sanctioned by Cameroon’s anti corruption authorities. Through this initiative an evaluation system for measuring the level of satisfaction of clients with the quality of services in public hospitals has been developed and is functional. It educated over 210,000 clients of public hospitals about their health rights, including the prices of services, thereby significantly reducing all forms of extortion and informal payments in health centers.

c) Abakwa Urban Youth Entrepreneur Scheme (ABU YES!): ABU YES! was a one-year long $25,000 initiative that was financed by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN HABITAT) and AFCIG from January to December 2011. This initiative provided technical and financial support to 100 youths in the form of vocational training and material grants to successfully set-up and operate small viable businesses of their own (http://edennewspaper.org/wp/?p=70). It created access for them to the services of microfinance institutions from where they are able to obtain additional financial assistance in the long term. The beneficiaries were all selected from highly marginalized and underprivileged groups including the disabled, single teenage mothers, orphans, school drop-outs from the slums and Persons Living with HIV/AIDS.

**Main Resource Person for the project:**

*Main resource person name:* Mr/Ms Ngasa Wise Nzikie  
*Main resource person title:* Coordinator  
*Age:* 28

**Deputy Resource Person for the project:**

*Deputy resource person name:* Chick Herman Azah  
*Deputy resource person title:* Project Officer
II. PROJECT PROPOSAL

Executive summary:

Bamenda is the capital town of the North West Region of Cameroon. This town boasts of many professional institutions of higher education including the newly created University of Bamenda. Over 62% of the population are youths between the ages of 12 and 35 years (Delegation of Youth Affairs). Although reliable statistics are not available, it is estimated by the North West Association of Persons Living with Disabilities (NWAPLWD) that over 13,000 youths live with different forms of disabilities in the town. A survey conducted by NWAPLWD in March 2012 indicates that over 70% of PLWDs in North West Cameroon have little or no knowledge of their rights.

In Bamenda as in other towns and cities in Cameroon, PLWDs continue to face huge difficulties related to the non-respect of their rights. PLWDs, it is noted, are rarely given an opportunity to go to school; hence their socialization is limited at an early stage. Reasons for this vary considerably. In a few instances, some parents feel ashamed to show their disabled children in public. In other instances children taken to schools also find little or nothing to do there as schools lack trained teachers and appropriate facilities and equipment for children living with disabilities. Some even meet with outright negative reactions from teachers and other children.

Teenagers living with disabilities on the other hand, especially as they begin to explore their sexuality, find it extremely difficult to find boyfriends or girlfriends, which in turn makes them vulnerable to any willing sexual partners, sometimes carrying with them the risk of getting infected with HIV/AIDS. Several reports, however, also mention men who only want to explore the sexuality of a
disabled person but have no intention of entering into long-term relationships with them. PLWDs also have neither genuine friendships nor fully participated in social activities. Exclusion from health services is noted to be a widespread problem in nearly all health districts in Bamenda.

Despite the government’s will and some degree of commitment to improve the situation facing PLWDs as indicated by the legal frameworks put in place, instances of institutional and cultural exclusion appear to be pervasive in Cameroon. In a bid to ensure the respect of the rights of PLWDs, the Cameroon Ministry of Social Affairs instituted the National Invalidity Identity Card (NIIC). The initial introduction of this card brought about the application of law number 83/13 of July 21, 1983, and of its Decree of Application Number 90/1516 of November 26, 1990. The NIIC serves as an identification tool and can be used by PLWDs to enjoy certain benefits from the state and public service institutions including tax exemptions, free lodging facilities for University Students, a reduction in transport fares and school fees.

However awareness about the availability of these cards, the procedures for obtaining it and its benefits is very low even amongst leaders of Associations of PLWDs. The policies, legal and institutional frameworks while being supportive of disabled people are not being exploited to their advantage.

This project shall empower Youths Living with Disabilities (YLWDs) in Bamenda through capacity building on human rights, social inclusion and entrepreneurship to become actively involved in nation building. It shall create partnerships with organizations of PLWDs and train leaders of these organizations on the rights of PLWDs and the use of the NIIC.

Through intensive mass sensitization using a variety of innovative approaches including social media the NIIC shall be promoted and made popular with YLWDs. One hundred (100) of the most underprivileged YLWDs will be assisted to obtain National Invalidity Identity Cards and the benefits that accrue there from.

Education and sensitization campaigns on the rights of PLWDs and the importance of diversity shall also be organized to target the general public including policy makers. At least 200 000 persons are expected to be reached through this mass sensitization component.

Through training on small business operations and financial support, the 100 YLWDs shall set-up and operate small businesses of their own as a means of economically empowering YLWDs. They shall open accounts in microfinance institutions where they shall henceforth be able to access additional financial support whenever the need arises.

These youths shall be trained to serve as role models for other YLWDs including on pertinent issues affecting YLWDS including on the prevention of STIs including HIV/AIDS.
The learning that shall be documented from the project shall be used to design and vulgarize a policy brief on promoting the social and economic empowerment of PLWDs in Cameroon.

**Main type of intervention:** Capacity development

**Main theme:** Social Inclusion

**Objective(s) of the project:**

**Main goal:** Youths Living with Disabilities (YLWDs) in Bamenda are empowered through capacity building on human rights, social inclusion and entrepreneurship and are actively involved in nation building.

**Specific objectives:** Collective Action for the Promotion of the Rights of Youths Living with Disabilities (CAPRIY) shall:

a) Increase the number of YLWDs who possess and benefit from the use of National Identification Invalidity Cards (NIICs). CAPRIY shall popularize the use of NIICs by educating YLWDs on the procedure for obtaining the said cards and on the benefits that accrue to holders of such NIICs under the Cameroon law. Through seminars, CAPRIY will school YLWDs on various topics pertaining to their rights. The project shall also assist the most underprivileged YLWDs to obtain these cards by providing them with some financial assistance;

b) Reduce unemployment amongst YLWDs: CAPRIY beneficiaries will be trained to gain skills in crafts such as carpentry, hair dressing, sewing, handicraft, and commercial phone booth operations amongst other vocations which they will identify. Once trained they shall be supported technically and financially to start-up and successfully run small businesses of their own;

c) Increase access to financial services for YLWDs:
Beneficiaries shall open savings accounts with microfinance institutions where they shall save regularly based on the progress of their businesses. This shall ensure that they are able to obtain other financial services offered by these microfinance institutions including loans on a long term basis.

d) Reduce the spread of sexually transmissible infections amongst YLWDs:
YLWDs shall receive in-depth training on the prevention of STIs including HIV. Direct beneficiaries shall also serve as peer educators for other YLWDs;

e) Increase awareness on and the respect of the human rights of PLWDs:
This shall be ensured though an intensive mass sensitization campaign on the rights of PWLDs. Through the use of banners, flyers, T-Shirts, radio and TV programs, social media including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube the general public including policy implementers shall be educated on the rights of PLWDs.

**Implementation strategy:**

1. Project activities:

   *i. Vulgarization of the use of NIICs:*

   AFCIG shall work closely with the North West Delegation of Social Affairs and the North West Association of Persons Living with Disabilities (this Association brings together all Organizations of PLWDs ) to identify those that qualify to obtain NIICs given that the law stipulates that PLWDs must belong to an Organization of PLWDs to be able to obtain a NIIC. Leaders of Organizations of PLWDs shall be trained on the legal requirements and shall identify all Youths Living with Disabilities within their own organizations who are eligible to benefit.

   Once identified, YLWDs shall be trained on the use of the NIIC. A manual on the procedure for obtaining NIICs will be produced and shared freely to YLWDs.

   100 of the most underprivileged YLWDs shall be identified and supported financially to obtain NIICs from the Ministry of Social Affairs. This will involve compiling the necessary documents and doing the necessary medical tests that are required for obtaining the cards.

   Mass sensitization activities shall involve educating YLWDs on the availability of the NIIC using TV, radio, newspapers, Facebook and close proximity sensitization in churches and markets.

   *ii. Setting up businesses for underprivileged YLWDs:*

   One hundred (100) of the most underprivileged YLWDs will be provided with tuition to attend vocational training of their choice. AFCIG through this project will pay for their tuition and provide them with transportation. AFIG will also be responsible for monitoring the progress of such trainees through
visits that will be paid to them at the vocational centers or at home. The training for most of the trades will last for about 8 months.

Upon completion of training, beneficiaries will be supported technically and financially and coached to set up and run their businesses successfully.

iii. Training on small enterprise management, the prevention of STIs and Peer education:

The 100 beneficiaries above shall also be trained on how to run their businesses on a daily basis. They shall be trained intensively on the prevention of STIs including HIV/AIDS and shall serve as peer educators for other youths.

iv. Opening of savings accounts in microfinance institutions:

Beneficiaries shall open savings accounts with microfinance institution where they shall save regularly based on the progress of their businesses. This shall ensure that they are able to obtain other financial services offered by these microfinance institutions including loans on a long term basis.

v. Mass sensitization of the general public on the rights of PLWDs:

The project shall aggressively promote the rights of PLWDs through a massive sensitization campaign. This shall be conducted using all available media including TV, Radio, Facebook, You Tube and the written press. Educative video spots shall be produced and broadcast on national television.

Radio sensitization shall take the form of radio spots, talks and debates. Participants in radio talks would include students, teachers, legal experts, human rights activists and YLWDs.

Massive education and sensitization in public places such as schools, markets and stadia about the rights of YLWDs would involve putting up crossroad banners at strategic locations in town, distributing leaflets and brochures. Key messages shall educate citizens about the importance of diversity and the respect of the rights of YLWDs.

Social Media will be used to post messages from YLWDs on their rights and as the project is evolving AFCIG will be able to post pictures of its activities for this project the page.

PLWDs will be actively involved in all project activities as they will be better able to champion their cause.

Local languages shall be used in all sensitization campaigns to ensure that the messages get across.
2. Management:

AFCIG’s governance systems are robust and include a Board of Directors made up of volunteers with proven expertise in the domains of working with PLWDs, youth development, project management, training and entrepreneurship. The board meets on a monthly basis to evaluate the coordination team and provide strategic orientations to operations. Her nine full time employees boast of a wide range of technical capacities required for the successful implementation of this project. They are highly experienced (with over 125 years of combined experience) in project design and implementation, business development, health promotion, monitoring and evaluation and reporting.

Our accounting and internal control systems including well documented policies and procedures ensure rigorous and efficient procurement of goods and services, timely, accurate and complete reporting.

AFCIG’s Coordinator shall lead the implementation of the project with the assistance of AFCIG’s Technical Advisers. The project implementation team shall meet once a week to report project progress, discuss monitoring and evaluation findings and correct shortfalls as they arise. PLWDs have been consulted extensively and shall be consulted throughout the initiative to ensure deliverables meet their needs.

3. Sustainability:

i. Viable businesses:

Beneficiaries will be selected not only on the basis of their vulnerability but also on the bases of availability, ability and commitment and rigorously trained. They will be supported to set up practicable businesses and monitored and evaluated on a monthly basis. These businesses will generate enough gains to ensure their sustainability.

ii. Access to financial service:

Beneficiaries will open savings accounts with microfinance institutions. These will provide them with access to other services such as low interest loans.

iii. Revolving fund:
From the proceeds of their businesses, beneficiaries will set up a revolving fund to assist other beneficiaries in need as well as train more YLWDs.

iv. Continuous assistance:

AFCIG will continue to support beneficiaries morally to succeed even after the project phase is completed.

4. Knowledge Management:

AFCIG shall devote a team member fully to Learning and Knowledge Management. S/he shall be responsible for documenting all knowledge that accumulates from the project, including that from monitoring and evaluation reports. S/he shall specifically document best practices and approaches or actions and strategies that prove to create the greatest impact. This shall be done by closely monitoring all project actions through desk reviews and field visits. Workshops, press conferences, newspaper write-ups and radio programs shall be used to share knowledge especially lessons learnt and relevant experiences. The coalition of civil society organizations, media practitioners, churches and local officials shall attend such sessions. A brochure of success stories and a policy brief for the promotion of the rights of PLWDs shall be published at the end of the initiative and shared with policy makers.

**Beneficiaries:** Youth with disabilities

**Implementing organization(s):** Action Foundation Common Initiative Group (AFCIG) – see information on the organisation in Section I.

**Institutional partners:**

i. Ntambeng Cooperative Credit Union

Ntambeng Cooperative Credit Union is one of Bamenda’s leading microfinance institutions. AFCIG has an established partnership with this organization that shall facilitate the opening of the savings accounts of beneficiaries.

ii. Radio Hot Cocoa
AFCIG has an established partnership with Radio Hot Cocoa, a renowned local media organ active in development work in Bamenda. Hot Cocoa would provide technical support in the development of radio talks, debates and reports on the rights of YLWDs in Cameroon.

The Chief Administrative Officer of Hot Cocoa can be reached on 23793822800

iii. North West Delegation of Social Affairs and the North West Association of PLWDs

The North West Delegation of Social Affairs and of PLWDs would assist in the massive mobilization of Youths Living with Disabilities to benefit from the project. They shall serve as an important resource group for the project implementation.

**Project duration (months):** 18

**Timeframe:** Kindly see attachment.

**Overall budget:** (US$) 86,482

**Budget Breakdown:**

Conferences, meetings: $ 1501  
Training seminars, courses: $ 60833  
Fellowships, study grants: $  
Consultants: $ 11458  
Supplies and equipment: $ 7117  
Publications, translations, reproduction: $ 4885  
Miscellaneous (please specify): $ 688 - Monitoring and Evaluation

**Monitoring, reporting and evaluation:**

AFCIG’s Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer, who is not involved in the everyday implementation of projects to safeguard independence and objectivity, shall be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of this project.

Monitoring shall be conducted every month and reports shared with the project implementation team once every month. A Mid-term and an End-of-Project Evaluation shall be conducted.

Success will be generally assessed from the number of disabled youths empowered by this project and number of persons educated on the rights of PLWDs. The change in the socioeconomic lives of beneficiaries shall also be evaluated.
Questionnaires would be administered to beneficiaries and other stakeholders to measure changes experienced from project kick off through to the conclusion of the project phase.

The following shall be specifically monitored and evaluated:

i. Number of PLWDs who acquire their NIICs as a result of the initiative.
ii. Number of PLWDs who complete vocational training;
iii. Number of PLWDs who set-up their businesses
iv. Number of savings accounts opened by beneficiaries;
v. The number of beneficiaries who obtain financial support from micro-finance institutions;
vi. The size of the revolving fund that is setup and the number of YLWDs who eventually benefit from the fund;
vii. Number of beneficiaries trained on STI prevention;
viii. Number of the peers of beneficiaries educated on STI prevention;
ix. The number of persons educated on the rights of PLWDs;
x. Other practical changes in the community that result from the mass sensitization and education of the public on the rights of PLWDs;

Xi. Number of Organizations of PLWDs who take part in project;

The monitoring and evaluation system will be inbuilt where diversions will be identified as soon as they occur. Monitoring tools such as narrative and statistical reports, monthly meetings, project visits and advisory meetings will be held monthly and the progress of the project shared with all stakeholders including the primary beneficiaries.

**Supporting documents:** [Project_Timeline_AFCIG.xlsx](#)