For some of us, the journey began at Entebbe Airport. Each of us carried a pack of goodies...
ONWARD TO MASAKA ... !
Welcome!

- Security
- Medicine Box
- Ambulance
- Special cases can be handled by Masaka Hospital.
- Do not engage in political discussions!
- Carry your passport on you at all times!
- All necessary outlets to exchange currency available!
APOLOGIES! on Netherland Ambassador not being able attend.

UGANDA BEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, ENJOY IT!

MASAKA, A HISTORICAL TOWN. Flattened in 1979, the spirit of RE-BUILDING in this town today carries into our THEME.

THREE KEY THINGS ABOUT KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT:

1. **Document**.
2. **Case-studies are critical**.
3. **Experience sharing**.

We need to move from TRANSACTIONAL to TRANSFORMATIONAL partnerships.

Empowering.
Educative.

Improve us ALL.

ACCOUNTABILITY! **Do not ABUSE project and avoid WASTE!**.

BE TRUTHFUL, BE VULNERABLE!
WELCOME!

MANAGE TIME!

SHARE!

LEARN FROM EACH OTHER!

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS!

LINKING!

LEARNING!

SELF-LED INFLUENCE!

- Safe spaces
- VOICE community
- Community spaces
- Everyone carries experiences
- Skills within you
- Empowerment
- Participation
- Authenticity

MARGINALISATION!

Has it grown or decreased?

KARIBUNI!
Social Media has bridged gaps over creed, nationality, geography.

Political ACCESS and ENGAGEMENT has grown. Policies are in place, but...

IMPLEMENTATION?
We probed for deeper insights on what are the barriers to our space for engagement as grantees and rights-holders.

- How do we create lasting change?

Participants shared insights on previous linking and learning workshops they had been part of:

- Unconferencing was a new and interesting workshop method.
- Experienced visible empowerment. E.g., Brendah and her rise in politics.
- Enjoyed connecting.
- Innovation labs.
- Marginalisation of the elderly and how it is being tackled in Kenya.

- Indigenous women rising. How they persist in the struggle.
  The story of Margaret from Karamoja.

As long as the sun rises, hope is alive!
We got into groups to discuss:

- Co-creation
- Country diversity
- Variety of proposals
- Bureaucracy
- Country diversity
- Context analysis
- Different grant types
- Opportunity to interact with grantees
- Link groups

What is unclear about grant-making at VOICE?

How to fix this?

- VOICE to get more agile and responsive to feedback
- VOICE to improve communication
- ACCOUNTABILITY requires diligence and documentation. It is a joint struggle
- VOICE and Grantees to co-create more

GRANTER

BOTTLENECKS

GRANTS

RECIPIENTS

Bureaucracy
Delays
Variety of proposals
Tough parameters
Funding shortfalls
Government restrictions
Grantee competition
Linking and Learning possibilities at VOICE?

- Safe spaces for sharing
- Linking with government agencies
- Learning collaboratives alike exchange visits
- Translation and distribution of IECs
- Capacity building for grantees. Workshops, trainings
- Rightsholders speaking for themselves

- Share organisational plans with local leaders
- Skills lab, food for thought and learning sessions
- VOICE partners document activities. Utilise ICT.
- Quarterly reflection meetings with stakeholders
- Capacity building for grantees. Workshops, trainings
- Rightsholders speaking for themselves
SELF INTRODUCTIONS

1. What is your name
2. Organisation you belong to?
3. What are you about?
4. What would your ideal world look like?
5. If you were an animal, what would you be?

EMERGING ISSUES FROM THIS INTERACTION

- There are new ways connecting and linking ie: social media.
- However, be careful when using social media. The danger of BACKLASH or OVER-REACTION is great.
- Give groups time and space to articulate their issues directly.
Indigenous communities may not be familiar with the technologies we use. You may have to fall back to conventional methods sometimes.

Move grants to villages. Do not over “urbanise”.

Limited time to submit proposals may limit community involvement.

Make new friends
Understanding
Network
Link and learn
Inclusion
Learn best practices

Meaningful relationships
To be inspired
Understand others

Diversity
Dynamism
Knowledge
Experiences
Curiosity
Support
Positivity
Influence
Participation
Punctuality
Teamwork
Confidence

New grantees to VOICE

WHAT WE BRING TO THIS SPACE
Closed minds
Judgement
Discrimination
Negativity
Intolerance
Ego
Disrespect
Interruptions

WHAT WE DO NOT BRING HERE

OUR EXPECTATIONS
If we are marginalised, who is DRIVING our agenda?
Our challenges are not that different. How do we build INTERSECTIONS?
Advocacy should not be just making new policies, but IMPLEMENTATION!

**STRATEGIES**
- Diverse approaches
- Multi-sectoral approaches
- International

**METHODS**
- Influencing
- Advocacy
- Capacity-building
- Knowledge exchanges
- Linking and learning
- Reflection meetings

**INGREDIENTS**
- Granters
- Grantees
- Rights-holders
- Community
- Local government
- Parliament
- Government

**CHANGE AGENTS**
- Self-led influencing
ADVANTAGES

- Changes are realised faster
- Credibility and authenticity
- Faces less discrimination
- Changes are realised faster
- Easier mobilisation

BARRIERS / CHALLENGES

- Founder Syndrome
- Political influence
- Changing donor dynamics
- Cultural barriers
- Limited funding
- Sustainability
- Self-doubt
- Limited access to information
- Literacy levels

WORKING WITH PARTNERS...

- Media
- Duty-bearers
- Community
- Grantees
- Rights-holders
- Granters
- Donors
- Ethics/Integrity
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- How do we get POLITICAL will?
- Personal ethics and integrity for the self led?
- Is evidence only quantitative?

- How does a self-led influencer deal with systemic marginalisation?

AHA! MOMENT: Solar-powered electronic braille tablets have greatly assisted in communication, research and dissemination of information for the visually impaired in Niger.