

## **GO GREEN GLOBAL CAMPAIGN! Against Climate Change.**

Families going by a single accidental and miraculous meal a day, children being deprived of the basic human rights to eating good food, good education and good health, parents fighting each other over who should actually provide the basic needs for the family, reduced and unpredictable low crops productivity, the potential youth attributing agriculture to work of the poor or the last resort work after failing in other attempts in life, a family not affording a pencil or a book for its siblings to go to school, are what describe the situation of the majority of young people, families and communities in my region of North and North Eastern Uganda. And are what describe my family too! This is because about 75% of the families in this region solely depend on agriculture as the major source of their sustenance. And it's this agriculture which is negatively being impacted by the change in the climate, as evidenced by unpredictable weather seasons characterized by prolonged dry spell duration with increasing heat intensity and once in a while stormy rainfall filled with too much flooding always, hence food insecurity, poverty, illiteracy and family conflicts.



**Justification of the challenge above/what keeps me much upset**, drawing from my real life experience; primarily my family depends on agriculture as the major source of its sustenance. In 2011, when I was still in the high school, I encountered the worst ever hard time at school. This was because I never had any sufficient pocket money, scholastics and teachers tossed me to all corners as I could no longer any more complete paying my school fees in time. This is because that year historically, my family realized the worst ever output from corns as my region experienced the worst ever climate change lengthy dry spell. This greatly negatively impacted on my education until last year 2015 when I dropped out at my bachelor level in my second year second semester as my university refused me sitting for any more exams because I hadn't completed the payment of my tuition. This was because my family could no longer any more cater for my tuition plus the other four of my sisters at the same time as it since 2011

been realizing not anymore much output from agriculture. So the highly need to save my fellow young people and their families from experiencing or already experienced what my family and I experienced, provoked me to initiate a climate campaign called Go Green Global Campaign!

Go Green Global campaign! **objective** is; to inspire more young people to create on awareness on climate change by exponentially defining its causes, impacts to the community and empower them to take up different mitigation and relevant adaptation strategies. With the **goal** of *changing the attitudes of the young people by raising their passions towards loving and fighting for a greener, healthy, just and sustainable planet so as to empower them to take up different climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives in order to create and produce a generation of socially young agro-preneurs, leaders and entrepreneurs who are conscious about their environment*. In this campaign, we task the young people we inspired, mentored and empowered to also exponentially inspire, mentor and empower their communities to fight against climate change now, not tomorrow or next year but today.

This campaign is being carried out in young people's communities like schools, colleges and tertiary institutions by some of the fellow very inspired and passionate team of young people on voluntary basis.

The campaign has the following activities:

- **Setting up Go Green Club in schools**, the club; (i) targets helping in easy mobilisation and organization of students among themselves for any other climate action activities that they will be involved in. (ii) Act as an identity to its members. This gives pride and sense of belongingness to the members because their participation and contribution to the purpose of this campaign can easily be recognized by the public.
- **Climate change sensitization in schools**, this include; (i) trainings and speeches from some very inspirational fellow young role model team of mentors. (ii) Involvement of Go Green Club members into simulation arts like dramas, debate, music, poetry, fine arts, games and sports which are all driven to break climate change sciences in to most consumable ways to provoke young people of all age groups into climate actions now. These aim at inspiring and empowering young people into quick climate actions now by making it so fun.
- **Creating a tree nursery bed for each of these schools**, by involving Go Green Club members in raising up young trees to be planted in their school gardens, distributed among the members, and surplus donated to the surrounding community or even sold by members at very subsidizes prices to the surrounding communities. This emphasizes to them the urgency need to plant, protect, and preserve and conserve more trees now and also to mitigate climate change as social entrepreneurs.
- **Training and involving Go Green Club members in the construction of some energy saving cooking stoves** like; charcoal saving stoves and biogas, this allows club members to construct these stoves on their own and as many as possible that can even be sold at

very subsidized prices to the surrounding communities. This emphasizes to them the need to adapt to some of the efficient and effective energy sources and also to fight climate change as social entrepreneurs by empowering their communities into the best adaptations possible.

- **Training and involving Go Green Club members in recycling up wastes**, this equips and empowers them with waste management skills. This aims at letting them know of the difference between decomposable and indecomposable waste materials, and how they bring about climate change.
- **Involving Go Green Club members in setting up climate smart agri-businesses' school demonstration farms**; like vegetable growing (horticulture), poultry, fruits farms, etc. and agro-forestry using the little earnings from subsidised sale of their own raised young trees and construction of energy saving cooking stoves for their community as sources of start-up capital to allow them do this. This is to allow them get the idea of mitigating climate change as social entrepreneurs and adapting to it as agropreneurs. So by doing this, our region northern Uganda can be in position to fight food insecurity, poverty, illiteracy and family conflicts, as there will be sustainable food sources and money to fight all these challenges.
- **One on one back home**. In this, Go Green Global Campaign! believes in exponential sustainable empowerment and development. So each student inspired and empowered to fight climate change from each school Go Green Club, is expected to also go and inspire and empower his/her community to fight climate change too. And this is how the campaign tends to keep its sustainability trend and a taste to each of the student's understanding about climate change from what they learnt.

Success stories from this campaign;

**Output:**

- (i) About 500 young people have been trained on how to tackle climate crisis by using different mitigating and adaptation strategies.
- (ii) 10 out of about 500 students and pupils reached initiated their own tree nursery beds to raise young seedlings of trees to be planted in their communities.
- (iii) An estimate of about 2500 varieties of young seedlings of trees have been planted by these highly inspired young people to combat this climate change.
- (iv) About 15 out of these 500 students and pupils have initiated some adaptation strategies, and these include poultry keeping, goat keeping and fruit farming.

**Outcome:**

- (i) 10 out of about 500 young people we reached in some few schools started their own tree nursery beds. Out of these initiatives, they raise and sell young seedlings of trees like mangoes, musisi, oranges, indigenous etc. at cheaper prices to the community around as a way of advocating to them the need to plant and protect more trees now. The little money they generate out of this, have empowered them

to start-up and adapt to climate smart agribusinesses like; poultry keeping, goat keeping and fruit farming.

And also a pupil called Odongo Joshua from Erute P/S in Lira district is paying his school fees just from initiating a simple tree nursery bed at their home in Tee Obwolo village in Adekokwok sub-county. And this is exactly how we train them to be socially responsible leaders and entrepreneurs in their communities. To download the pilot test report on this campaign, please link to <http://afogwad.weebly.com/go-green.html>.

**Our wish;** is to inspire and empower many more fellow young people like Odongo Joshua whose family cannot afford not even a pencil, a book, schools fees and tuition due to climate change to adapt to and at the same time also mitigating it. Hence saving many more fellow young people from experiencing what my family and I experienced.

To donate to support this campaign, please link to our Action Connected social media page here <https://www.actionconnected.com/project/18>. And to watch a video on this campaign, please link to <https://goo.gl/mKhR9I>

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