BRIDGE OF HOPE ORGANIZATION (BOHO)

For Vulnerable Children, Youth and Women

ARWOT PARISH, ETAM SUBCOUNTY, AMOLATAR DISTRICT

NORTHERN UGANDA

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**CONCEPT NOTE FOR CRESSI PROJECT**

Project Title: CREATION OF SUSTAINABLE SOURCE OF INCOME FOR OVCS (CRESSI) PROJECT

Period of Implementation: FROM JANUARY 2013 TO JANUARY 2016

Project Budget: **1,036,455,000 UGX**

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**Abstract**

This paper has been designed after a research carried out by BOHO in Amolatar district in northern Uganda. This was done through interviews with village leaders, sub-county staffs and district staffs. Data was also collected from villages by Community based representatives of BOHO and volunteers who even collected data from CDOs. Results from this research, data collected from sub-county community development department and district community department shows that in every two house holds in this district there is at least one OVC

Orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) are here by classified as children under 18 years of age with the following categories:

Critically Vulnerable; orphans whose rights are not fulfilled, children infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, children with disabilities, children in worst forms of child labor (commercial sexual exploitation, illicit activities, paid domestic work, work that interferes with school attendance), Children experiencing various forms of abuse and violence e.g. survivors of sexual violence, in abusive homes or institutions, Street children / abandoned children and or neglected children, Children in contact with law, children in child headed households, child mothers and any other children who are assessed to be in need of immediate care and protection.

Moderately Vulnerable children; children out of school, child mothers, children in poverty stricken (impoverished) households, Children involved in hazardous work (domestic service, informal sector, commercial agriculture, trafficked), children living with the elderly/guardians with severe disabilities and children in hard to reach areas(Fishing communities).

BOHO therefore would like to address challenges being faced by OVCs in Amolatar district through this paper presented to lobby for funds to implement vulnerable children’s Social Protection (VSP) project that will address most of those challenges.

**Introduction**

The main purpose of this paper is to mobilize resources to implement VSP project that will address OVCs problems at all levels. Bridge of Hope Organization (BOHO) is one of the organizations on the forefront fighting for OVCs social protection, self sufficiency and livelihoods, Education and learning life skills, Enterprise and Employment, setting up a home and integration in the community. Therefore, BOHO needs moral support, human as well as fiscal resources, and any other support to combat this menace to improve child protection.

**Background**

Bridge Of Hope Organization is a registered Non-Governmental and Non political Organization not affiliated to any religious denomination founded January 12, 2012 by Bruno S Akejo, Martha Adero and Celestine D. Omara, to create and develop programs for supporting and uplifting vulnerable children, women and youth within the district of Amolatar and, eventually, the whole of Uganda.

The creation of BOHO reflects a great concern about the need to address the lack of opportunities within rural communities in Amolatar district, Northern Uganda and later country wide. In these areas poverty was exacerbated by a more than two decade war by the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). There is high rate of Orphans and other vulnerable children, poverty which manifests itself in very poor standards of living, poor education at all levels, poor health, and poor infrastructure and lack of social and legal protection of vulnerable children. There is however to our dismay no any intervention to curb the above problems

**Problem statement**

Amolatar district being a pelicuda with landing sites all round and high number of Orphans and other vulnerable children with reckless and very poor lifestyles needs immediate intervention to curb down the challenges of OVCs. The OVCs in Amolatar district do not have access to health facilities as its very expensive and far from them, they lack food to sustain the family (Child mothers), they lack scholastic materials and financial support for education. They lack sustainable source of income and many other social needs. Some of these children can not move far to access social facilities necessary for them as a result of their disability status, others feel they are hopeless as they are looked at as dead end of wood by the community. Child mothers can not afford to buy Food, clothes, soap, paraffin, and salt for the family as they don’t have any source of income and they see no future in themselves.

Child vulnerability is majorly caused by poverty, armed conflict, HIV-AIDS and other diseases. Early marriages are exacerbating the problem of child mothers who apart from being vulnerable, give birth to children who become vulnerable to various threats, sustaining a vulnerability cycle through generations

**Strategies and objectives**

* There will be a deliberate effort by this organization to supply agricultural inputs to OVCs and their care givers so that they can raise food for themselves
* Modern agricultural practices will be taught to these OVCs and their care givers
* Bridge of Hope Organization will open up a vocational training school where these OVCs can get trainings in various courses to raise for them income
* They will be trained and promoted to form VSLA
* BOHO will link these OVCs to markets fro their agricultural products through group marketing
* Value addition for some of their products will be added and promoted

**Sustainability**

CRESSI project will be sustainable since they are trained with life skills to avert poverty by modern agricultural practices and vocational skills to raise income for them. Their income will be maintained and promoted by VSLA (Village Savings and Loan Associations)