



## **Social and Solidarity Economy**

Training Programme for Local Leaders and Practitioners in Uganda and the East  
African Region

Kampala Capital City Authority – Uganda  
Global Social Economy Forum

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Concept Note

## **1. Background.**

There are two major challenges that many countries in Africa are facing: a rapid growth in unemployment and rapid urbanization. The twin problems can partly be attributed not only to the rapid growth in population but also to the long term structural imbalances brought about by the neoliberalism policies adopted by many countries over the last decades. As governments and communities grapple with the economic and social imbalances of the market economy, alternative economic models have emerged mostly from the bottom-up. The social and solidarity economy is one of such models.

Conceptually SSE can be looked at as an ecosystem of practices that already exist in many societies particularly in Africa. Traditionally in Africa, SSE practices were driven by ideology and communal commitments e.g. the “BulungiBwasi” movement in Buganda in central Uganda. Currently the SSE movement has expanded often driven by hard times & challenges of survival largely brought about by the neoliberalism policies of the 1990’s which resulted in economic inequalities, un/under employment, particularly among the youth, in the face of rapid population growth. As such people have turned to own collective solutions to create jobs, food, housing, credit etc.

Although the size and contribution of SSEs to the local economy in Uganda and other sub Saharan countries is not well document, there is evidence of growing SSE in many African countries. These SSE organizations manifest in various forms ranging from formally registered organizations e.g. savings & credit cooperatives (SACCOS), voluntary organizations & charities, NGOs, clubs etc. to informal/non-monetary practices e.g. extended family and community help services.

Today, the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is a reality not only in Africa but in many countries across the world because it promotes values and principles that focus on people’s needs and on their communities instead of focusing on maximizing profits which will neglect the important of social and environmental values. In a spirit of voluntary participation, self-help and self-reliance, and through enterprises and organizations, it seeks to balance economic success with fairness and social justice, from the local level to the global level.

As the SSE movement gains momentum and expands its role in social and economic transformation, it is important that African policy makers and practitioners are provided with tools, skills and knowledge in order to provide a conducive policy environment to foster a vibrant and competitive Social and Solidarity Economy. This training programme comes in to address this need.

## **2. Purpose and objectives of the SSE Training Programme**

The SSE training programme for local leaders and practitioners in Uganda and the EAC region is aimed at providing a unique opportunity for policy makers and practitioners in the east African region to build a common understanding and advance the development of the social economy. The training will equip participants with knowledge to better sustain and improve the economic and social conditions of their communities and for social entrepreneurs to develop their competitiveness and contribution to local economic development. The training will also serve as a platform for local and regional practitioners to meet with policymakers and representatives of international organizations. Building on knowledge gained at previous regional exchanges, seminars, workshops and academies, the training will assist participants to understand the place of SSE in the current development frameworks e.g. the UN agenda 2030 and agenda 2063 of the African union.

The training is aimed at achieving the following Objectives;

- i. Foster a common understanding and appreciation of the role of SSE among policy makers and practitioners in the EAC region
- ii. Build understanding of the current SSE players in the region including contribution of SSE to social economic development, the challenges, limitations, and opportunities for growth.
- iii. Provide a platform for learning and exchanging of ideas and experiences for an effective and vibrant social economy
- iv. Build a regional network of SSE champions to effectively contribute to the growing international network of policy makers and practitioners working on SSE

## **3. Target Audience/Participants**

The SSE training programme will bring together 120 participants targeting policy makers, practitioners and entrepreneurs from Uganda and the East African region. The participation in the training will be by invitation and participants will be invited from the following sectors among others; Municipal Mayors and Town Clerks from Uganda, Kisumu & Nairobi in Kenya, Arusha & Mwanza in Tanzania, Kigali in Rwanda, Bujumbura in Burundi and Juba in South Sudan; District Chairpersons, NGOs, CSOs, savings and credit cooperative societies, agricultural cooperatives, academic institutions, Ugandan National Ministries including Ministry of Kampala & Metropolitan Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Local Government, international organizations promoting SSE.

#### **4. Content of the training programme**

The training programme will focus on deepening the understanding of the role of SSE in delivering inclusive and sustainable social and economic transformation on the continent in the context of the UN agenda 2030 (SDGs) and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union. The focus will be on sharing experiences and appropriate policy responses to foster a vibrant local SSE sector and its place in addressing the employment and economic challenges on the continent. The key themes to be discussed will include (not exhaustive list);

- i. Understanding the social and solidarity economy (SSE) - Presentation of the background, nature and characteristics of SSE in general
- ii. The commitment of national and local government to developing SSE and the impact of SSE in local economic development and job creation in a sustainable way – key drivers and trends
- iii. Role of local leaders in facilitating a vibrant SSE sector
- iv. 6 Pillars of SSE
  - a. Legal, institutional framework and public policies,
  - b. Capacity building of stakeholders,
  - c. Awareness & promotion of the Culture of SSE and Formation & training on SSE
  - d. Access to market / Financing mechanism of SSE,
  - e. governance issue of SSE organizations & Enterprises
  - f. Managing, measuring and reporting the impact
- v. The SSE in Africa and role of SSE in the social economic transformation of African economies in the context of the UN Agenda 2030 and the AU agenda 2063 and the role of international organizations in promoting and developing SSE in East Africa
- vi. Case studies from local or regional SSE practitioners

## 5. Background of the organizers



Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF) is a global network that currently brings together 15 local governments and networks of local governments, and 38 organizations and networks of social economy. Its aims is to serve as a hub for sharing visions and experiences through cross-border collaboration and cooperation based on multilateral (public-private-community) partnerships for an inclusive, equitable and human centered world for all of us.



Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) is the legal entity, established by the Ugandan Parliament, that is responsible for the operations of the capital city of Kampala in Uganda. It replaced the Kampala City Council (KCC).