

## Harnessing Indigenous Potentials in Africa (HIPo-Africa)



Having realised that challenges related to organizational and community capacity development were affecting the ability of service providers to deliver appropriate services on one hand and the beneficiaries to uptake service; HIPo-Africa came in to provide the missing link between the two entities. The concept of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and its application to social development interventions including HIV&AIDS is the foundation upon which HIPo-Africa supports both providers and communities achieve their development objectives. HIPo-Africa is a local NGO based in Uganda with an income generating consultancy arm as one of its sustainability strategies.

**We envision** “A transformed society with improved quality of life through application of indigenous knowledge and traditional systems”

**And our mission is** “To sustainably build capacity of communities to improve their livelihoods through strengthening the linkages between indigenous knowledge systems and traditional systems; and biomedical health systems”

**We go by a Slogan:** *Indigenous knowledge for better lives*

### Goal

To support sustainable social and economic development at community and service provider level through capacity development initiatives

### Values statements

HIPo-Africa believes in unity in diversity and as an organization we are:

1. **Committed** to teamwork as a cohesive factor which underpins the essence of our successes.
2. **People centered** and always serving our constituents with due diligence so as to enable them meet their aspirations
3. We learn from our past performance and experience in ensuring an **adaptive management approach** to sustainable development
4. A **culturally sensitive institution** whose interventions take into account the diverse Indigenous Knowledge Systems of the different communities we serve
5. **Accountable** to our constituents through adoption of participatory approaches in all that we do.

### HIPo-Africa programmes

HIPo-Africa has delivered services in over 16 districts of Uganda through supporting different service providers with a variety of capacity development packages depending on their development needs. As an organization, we emphasize application of indigenous knowledge systems as a foundation for improving access to and utilization of social development services in the communities. To this end, we support service providers in:

1. Community systems strengthening,
2. Community based organizations outreach training
3. Capacity development for HIV&AIDS and social development service providers at the different levels of the organizational hierarchy
4. Documentation of indigenous knowledge and practices
5. Policy advocacy in indigenous knowledge and dissemination of information on IKS
6. Microfinance support services for poverty alleviation
7. Food security through community systems strengthening

8. Ecological approach to monitoring and evaluation
9. Logical framework approach to monitoring and evaluation
10. Most significant change story approach to monitoring and evaluation
11. Strategic planning, programme design and resource mobilization

**One of HIPo-Africa staff conducting an Organizational capacity assessment with FADSI team in Rakai**



**HIPo-Africa staff assessing Community Systems with community leaders in Katwe-Kabatoro town - Kasese District**



**On site capacity development support to community members**





HIPo-Africa staff during training in Rakai



HIPo-Africa staff during training in Ethiopia

**Our target beneficiaries**

Our clients are Community Based Organizations, Local and International Non Governmental Organizations, Government Institutions, Civil Society Organizations, Self-help groups, Faith Based organizations, and communities in their diverse nature; and individuals with needs in capacity development.

**HIPo-Africa main strategies**

HIPo-Africa capacity development interventions are among others delivered through on job mentorship and experiential learning, didactic trainings and placements.

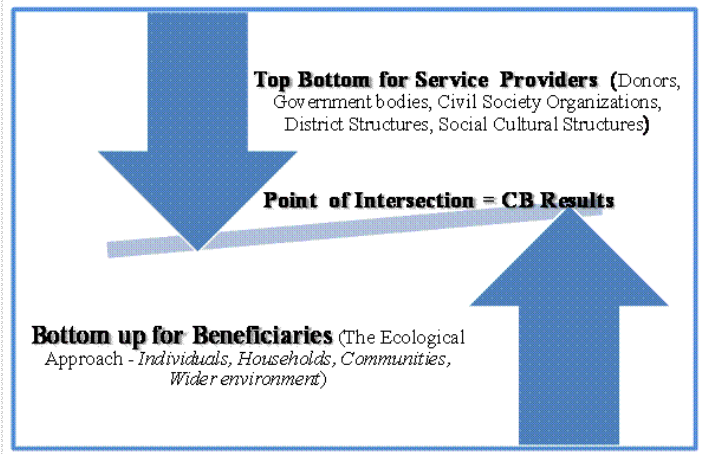
**The concept of Community Systems Strengthening (CSS)**

HIPo-Africa defines *Community Systems' Strengthening as an approach that promotes the performance of the formal and informal community based structures; facilitates their linkages and interactions with one another and with the environment around them in a way that supports sustainable community development.* This approach adopts the systems thinking approach to community development and acknowledges the interrelatedness, inter-linkages and interactive nature of the community systems and subsystems and the need for their strengthening in order to achieve community development.

**Our capacity development models**

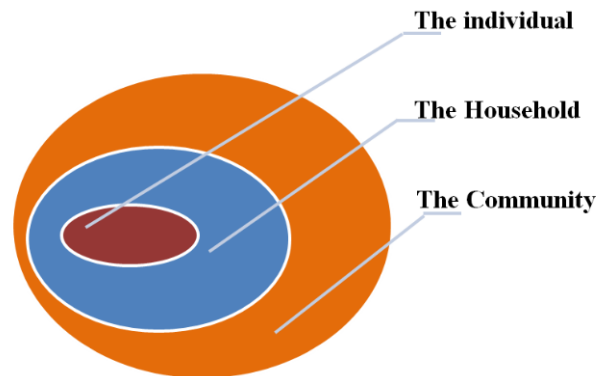
**The Beneficiary – Provider Equilibrium (Be-Pro-Equilibrium) Model**

This Capacity Building model looks at empowering the service providers to integrate IKS into their interventions during design and implementation management levels. It also support the beneficiary communities and prepares them to uptake the services by strengthening their capacities to work with the service providers in identifying their needs, design, implement, monitor and evaluate interventions. The Be-Pro-Equilibrium model ultimately supports creation of a point of intersection defined by indicators of capacity building results agreed upon with the different stakeholders whose capacities are to be built.



**The Ecological Model to Monitoring and Evaluation of community based initiatives (The egg model)**

HIPo-Africa uses the ecological approach of assessing specific target beneficiary needs. It is the basis for developing indicators for monitoring and evaluation of outcomes at individual, household and community levels.



**The OPCI-3QE Capacity Building Model**

This model provides a systematic approach to identification of capacity gaps, setting priorities, developing a capacity building plan which defines monitoring and evaluation indicators, execution and copying the quality measures.

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