



## **YOUTH & HIP HOP PROJECT**



## **2015 REPORT**

[www.bayimba.org](http://www.bayimba.org)

## **INTRODUCTION**

In July 2014 the second phase of the Youth & Hip Hop programme kicked off with the special goal to contribute to enhancing youth inclusion by specifically empowering youth in Northern Uganda (covering West-Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso and Karamoja), using Hip Hop culture, thereby aiming, on the one hand, to contribute to positive social change and bridge the differences and unify youth and, on the other hand, to generate employment and career opportunities for youth.

Throughout 2015, various activities were organised to this end: Hip Hop trainings in 3 locations (Kitgum, Lira, Soroti), creative entrepreneurship trainings in 3 locations (Kitgum/Gulu, Arua, Soroti/Mbale), a third Hip Hop Boot Camp (this time in Mbale) as well as performances at the Bayimba International Festival in Kampala and Bayimba Regional Festivals in Gulu and Mbale. Some of the activities were not implemented as planned: mentorship programme development, equipment purchase and market survey, Hop Hop TV shows and recordings. Below follows an account of each of the activities implemented.

### ***1 – (1<sup>st</sup>) HIP HOP UNPLUGGED CONCERT IN KAMPALA***

The first Hip Hop event was executed in partnership with Uganda Lyricist Lounge on 24 March 2015 at the National Theatre (dance floor space). While Bayimba facilitated the band, selected visiting artists, sound and stage, the Lyricist Lounge facilitated the rest of the performers plus all other logistical and organizational issues involved. Selected by Bayimba were Bayinga from Mbale, comprising of three members (Byg Ben, Sam Leumas and Young Blazy) as well as Kampala-based artists Tushi Polo, Zamunda and Lady Slyke.

Rehearsals started on 17 March 2015 with Zamunda and Tushi Polo, later joined by Bayinga. Lady Slyke also rehearsed with her own band. The event was headlined by GNL Zamba, one of the top rappers in Uganda, in a move to host an artist who would attract the attention of the public that would later see other emerging artists lined up for the event.

Prior publicity was carried out online, on radio and TV. Tushi Polo, Zamunda, B Trouble and Jungle the Maneater also went on NBS TV on 14 March 2015. Jungle and Tushi Polo were on Urban TV on 20 March 2015 while Jungle and GNL went on UBC TV on 21 March 2015. They also went on Hot 100 radio and had radio mentions on the same station. The Daily Monitor covered the event with an article.

On the day itself performances kicked off at 8pm with rappers Philosopher and Keen. Slender MC, a poet, also came on stage and then Bayinga from Mbale came on backed by the band Bandwagon. They performed well only that at some point one of the mics went off but they still pulled off the show well. Ruyonga then came on with a freestyle performance with some other artists who came with an acoustic set. Zamunda then came on backed by Bandwagon and sang two songs. Tushi Polo followed and sang one song with Zamunda who proceeded with two more songs alone with the band. Cyno MC then performed with some other artists

and then Lady Slyke came on with her band and showed a lot of maturity and professionalism in her performance during her five songs. GNL Zamba closed the show backed by Bandwagon and performed five songs live. In the middle of his performance he invited other rappers to join, closing the show.

## **2 – HIP HOP TRAINING IN KITGUM**

The second training in Kitgum ran from 16 to 27 February 2015 at Jaflo Gardens. The local coordinators did a commendable job to mobilize youths to attend the training. Not all participants that participated in the first training returned due to school, so the group was a mix of old and new faces.

The training was officially opened by Fred Musisi, CKU Local Programme Officer, and the facilitators. Sylvester Kabombo, Coordinator, joined them later:

- Ian Kagimbo: Musician from Kampala conducting the voice/music theory class
- DJ Ivo: DJ/Producer from Kampala conducting the deejaying class
- Spin : Break dancer from Kampala conducting the breakdance class
- Qreaus: Rapper/poet from Kampala conducting the rap/music class
- Fred Musisi: CKU Local Programme Officer conducting the personal development planning and leadership skills classes

Out of the 30 participants, 12 participants (2 female) registered for the music/rap class; 11 participants (5 female) for the breakdance class; 7 participants took part in the deejaying class.

According to the evaluation, 73.3% strongly agree that the objective of the training was clearly defined while 60.7% strongly agree that it met their expectations. 86.2% strongly agree that the trainers were knowledgeable, 86.2% strongly agree that the tutors involved participants in learning, 62.1% strongly agree that there was adequate time for discussion and feedback, 79.3% strongly agree that the theoretical information was understandable and 71.4% strongly agree that they will be able to apply the knowledge and skills gained. The personal development planning class was rated by 84.2% as very good and the leadership skills class by 65.2% as very good.

## **3 – PERFORMANCES AT BAYIMBA REGIONAL FESTIVAL IN GULU**

The Bayimba Regional Festival in Gulu took place on Saturday 11 April 2015 at TAKS Center. As part of the promotional programme the opportunity was given to the best performing dancers and rappers from Kitgum, Gulu, Lira and Arua, through a selection process done carried out by the Coordinator and facilitators/tutors.

Selected rappers were Lil Sky (Lira), LP Shady (Arua), MC Cyfa (Kitgum), MC Twitch (Gulu) and Jah Pablo (Gulu). Gulu-based band Golden Gate was arranged to accompany the rappers throughout the rehearsals to the main event. The rappers arrived in Gulu on Thursday 9 April,

two days prior to the festival. The festival was a very good experience for the rappers because it was their first time performing with accompaniment of a live band although it would have been good if they would have had more time to rehearse with the band.

The two dance groups invited were: Steppers, a group of 5 dancers from Arua, and Gifted Feet, a group of 5 dancers from Kitgum. Since Gulu dancers had been programmed before, it was decided to extend the opportunity to other acts within the Northern Region. The majority of the dancers arrived a day prior to the festival on Friday 10 April 2015 but some others arrived on the day of the event because the bus that they were travelling with got stuck on the way. That did not deter them from joining to do the last preparations for the event though.

Unfortunately, the whole day of the festival was interrupted by rainfall, forcing the festival organizers to shift the day programme. The constant bad weather also deterred some people from attending the event. Despite the obstacles, the programme moved on. However, the fact that we had organized it as a day event, shifting the acts to a later time at night affected the performances because there was not enough light (hindering good photo and video coverage). Regardless of all that, the rappers and dancers put up very good performances for a cheering crowd that kept watching even though it had started drizzling again. The rappers performed on stage one at 8pm and dancers on stage two in intervals.

#### **4 – CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING IN KITGUM**

The three-day creative entrepreneurship training took place at Jaflo Gardens in Kitgum from 13 to 15 April 2015, facilitated by Faisal Kiwewa, Director of Bayimba Foundation. The training accommodated 10 participants, 5 of them were selected from Gulu to join the 5 in Kitgum (among them 4 female). All participants were selected using the database of previous trainings. The training comprised 2 dancers, 2 rappers, 1 singer, 2 filmmakers, 1 broadcaster, 1 fashion designer and 1 event decorator. The selected youth participants were taken through the process of understanding, developing and sustaining a (creative) business idea and enhancing their skills in planning, marketing and communication as well as basic financial and legal knowledge. The training involved group discussions and presentations. This time, the facilitator put more emphasis on participants' personal creative business ideas. Unfortunately, the evaluation forms were not ready and distributed in time, but feedback was collected from the participants at the end of the training, generally indicating that the training was appreciated and highly valued.

#### **5 – DOADOA CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING (JINJA)**

For this year's DOADOA – East African Performing Arts Market event (Jinja), a special creative entrepreneurship training was organized by Ruth Daniel, Co-Director of In Place of War (IPOW) from the United Kingdom. She delivered a three-day programme to 20 selected participants with the aim to:

- Foster a greater understanding of the creative industries.
- Help beneficiaries understand alternative global models for organising and structuring their creative business.
- Demonstrate the processes involved and value of festivals, events and conferences.
- Work with participants to create their own creative business, building a short business canvas index business plan and a set of 'next steps'.

Participants were recruited from the programme from across Uganda – from Gulu, Arua, Kitgum, Kampala, Jinja and Fort Portal. One participant was a refugee from DR Congo, based in Hoima. Participants were a mixture of female and male (70% male, 30% female) and aged between 19 to 29 years old. Moreover, each day additional people joined sessions as additional participants, not in the core programme. The training session comprised of presentations, group work, reflection, discussions and business planning.

The training was a successful addition. At the end of the meeting each participant had a detailed work plan and received a certificate of participation from the University of Manchester. Participants have started to adopt the ideas they learnt on the course (collaboration and alternative funding) while there is ongoing mentoring and support (including through the IPOW Facebook group).

## **6 – CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING IN ARUA**

The three-day creative entrepreneurship training in Arua took place from 18 to 20 May 2015 at Oasis Inn. The training was facilitated by Faisal Kiwewa while Fred Musisi, CKU Local Programme Officer, paid a visit.

The training initially targeted 10 participants from Arua but the number was increased to 15 because many youngsters were hungry for knowledge and did not want this opportunity to bypass them. Participants (6 female, 9 male) were selected using the database of previous trainings and in close cooperation with the local coordinator. They comprised 4 dancers, 3 actors, 6 rappers, 1 DJ and 1 graphics designer. The selected participants were taken through the process of understanding, developing and sustaining a (creative) business idea and enhancing their skills in planning, marketing and communication as well as basic financial and legal knowledge, involving group discussions and presentations whilst more emphasis was put on participants' personal creative business ideas.

According to the evaluation, 83.3% strongly agree that the objective of the training was clearly defined while 50.0% strongly agree that it met their expectations. 90.9% strongly agree that the trainers were knowledgeable, 75.0% strongly agree that the tutors involved participants in learning and 58.3% strongly agree that there was adequate time for discussion and feedback. 58.3% strongly agree that the training format was effective and 58.3% strongly agree that they will be able to apply the knowledge and skills gained.

## **7 – PERFORMANCES AT LABA! ARTS FESTIVAL 2015 IN KAMPALA**

In collaboration with LaBa! Arts Festival 2015 a dance and rap laboratory were organized with the aim to examine artistic cooperation and creation with different approaches.

### Dance laboratory: The Fake Empire

From 10 to 12 June 2015 a workshop under the title The Fake Empire took place at the basement of Goethe Zentrum Kampala/UGCS, an open experiment led and organized by choreographer and performance artist Yolanda Gutierrez and DJ and producer Tom Katangole-Strauch. The project sought to compose a futuristic or rather political imagination by involving the personalities and styles of 14 selected dancers (selected with the assistance of Abdul of Batalo East). Among the 14 dancers, 11 were from Kampala and 3 from Kitgum, Guru and Arua. The dancers showed different levels of age and professionalism. During the three-day workshop a strong choreography was developed that brought the heterogeneous group together while giving space for individual expressions.

With a dynamic performance, created with collective and also very individual moves, with sculptural elements and powerful expressions on their faces, the dancers impressed the audience at the LaBa! Arts Festival. They were using the whole space, moving on the stage as well as on the ground and even through the crowd, walking in a line cutting the audience several times into pieces. The dancers made visible how individuals and a crowd develop power to create changes.

### MC workshop: Heading into the Future by Tracing back your Roots

The two-day workshop took place from 11 to 12 June 2015 at the office of Goethe Zentrum Kampala/UGCS. MC Twitch, LP Shaady and Totem MC (invited from Kitgum, Gulu and Arua) came together under facilitation of DJ Darkmeme to compose beats for a performance during LaBa! Arts Festival. Together they chose a variation of different beats, suggested in advance by DJ Darkmeme. After making a choice the MCs have started to write their own lyrics and to perform it according to the rhythms. Their approach was to combine two different perspectives, coming from their roots by using native lyrics and instruments, embedding them with futuristic beats. There was also an exchange regarding production techniques. The group produced 3 different songs, which they presented together on stage during the LaBa! Arts Festival.

Both laboratories provided stimulating and inspiring experiences to participants, creating exchanges and providing space for expression, both for the experienced workshop leaders and participants. Both laboratories were also characterized by high productivity: an impressive choreography and three new songs were produced within just a few days.

## **8 – (2<sup>nd</sup>) HIP HOP UNPLUGGED CONCERT IN KAMPALA**

The second unplugged event took place on Wednesday 23 June 2015 at the National Theatre in Kampala, again organized in partnership with Uganda Lyricist Lounge. The rappers MC Twitch (Gulu) and Hoppy Benny (Kitgum) respectively were invited to share a platform with the different artistes from Kampala. MC Twitch had stayed behind in Kampala for some time after the previous event, LaBa! Arts Festival, so she was available. Hoppy Benny arrived on Friday prior to the event for the first day of rehearsal. The musicians were accompanied by Milege Band, and the three-day rehearsals were done at their premises at Makerere University.

Pre-event interviews were booked on Radiocity 97FM, Hot100.9FM, UBC TV and NBS TV. We also had sponsored adverts and mentions on Hot100.9FM that ran for two weeks. Mobilisation was also done through different social media platforms.

On the day itself, the event kicked off with MC Twitch, accompanied by Milege Band. She performed 4 songs and put up a very energetic showcase that received loud cheers. She was later joined on stage on the last song "Woman" by other 3 female rappers from Kampala. After the ladies' performance, Sylvester Kabombo, the Coordinator talked to the crowd briefly about the project and its country-wide activities. After the short break, further performances followed with Undercover Brothers (Kampala) and Hoppy Benny. He performed 5 songs. He was followed by St Nellysade, Jungle the Maneater, SP Omugunjule, B-Trabol and BC, who was also the official MC of the event. The last performance was by the headliner, The Mith, performing set of 7 songs (3 on a DJ-set and 4 accompanied by Milege Band). He teamed up with St Nellysade and Agee on one of the songs. The Mith put up a great performances, drawing closer the crowd that.

## **9 – HIP HOP TRAINING IN SOROTI**

The second training in Soroti kicked off from Monday 22 June to 2 July 2015 at Attooti House. Some of the participants of the previous training were not able to make it (some were in school and others were out of Soroti at the time).

The training was officially opened by Fred Musisi, CKU Local Programme Officer. Sylvester Kabombo, the Coordinator, joined in subsequent days. On board were three tutors from Kampala and two from Mbale:

- Bogere Allan: Breakdancer from Mbale conducting the breakdance class
- Titan Mukasa: Musician from Mbale conducting the voice/music theory class
- DJ Ivo: DJ/Producer from Kampala conducting the deejaying class
- Qreaus: Rapper/Poet from Kampala conducting the rap/music class
- Fred Musisi: CKU Local Programme Officer conducting the personal development planning and leadership skills classes

Out of the 30 participants, 15 (1 female) participants registered for the music/rap class; 8 participants (3 female) for the breakdance class; 7 participants took part in the Deejaying class.

According to the evaluation, 69.0% strongly agreed that the objective of the training was clearly defined, 48.1 % strongly agreed that it met their expectations, 70.4% strongly agreed that the trainers were knowledgeable, 67.9% strongly agreed that the tutors involved participants in learning and 50.0% strongly agreed that there was adequate time for discussion and feedback.

### **10 – PERFORMANCES AT BAYIMBA REGIONAL FESTIVAL IN MBALE**

For this year's festival in Mbale 2 rappers, Joj Bayce and G-Skills, and 5 dancers, Olango Walter, Asamo Jessica, Eseru Geofrey, Okello James and Ebyeru Cyrus, were invited all the way from Soroti. The artistes that were selected from Moroto were not reachable at the time of communication because their phone numbers were off for days.

For the rappers rehearsals with Bisso Jazz Band started at Club Eltanjia and ran from 2 July 2015 till the day of the festival. As for the dancers, for the very first time an all-female dance crew called The DHU Girls from Dream House Uganda was programmed, a product of the training programme in Mbale. Since one of the leaders had been a facilitator/tutor in the consecutive trainings in Soroti, both dance groups from Soroti and Mbale shared the same rehearsal facility.

The festival took place on Saturday 4 July 2015 at Naboa Road, Mbale. The Soroti dancers of 3 boys and 1 girl under their group name Rise Up Crew, which they created right before they went on stage, were the third performers on stage. Despite being nervous, they put up a good and energizing performance that drew a few people closer to the stage. They were followed by DHU Girls, who for the first time performed as a girls-only group. Their performances (a set of different dance styles climaxing with a freestyle session) were well-executed and one of the highlight performances of the night, drawing a huge crowd cheering up close to the stage.

Because the rappers did not have enough music on their own, none of them could do a solo performance. Instead they were teamed up for one set, playing for roughly 30mins. They were a bit nervous at the start of the first song because they had never performed with a live band and before a massive crowd on such a big stage but eventually they picked up and performed well till the last song.

### **11 – HIP HOP TRAINING IN LIRA**

The second training in Lira was slated for March but could not proceed after some days because of interference by local artists and authorities. The training was stopped and after negotiations with local artists and authorities rescheduled to a later date. The training that

eventually followed in August was officially opened by Sylvester Kabombo, Coordinator, who was in the subsequent days joined by Fred Musisi, CKU Local Programme Officer. Facilitators for the training were:

- Titan Mukasa: Musician from Mbale conducting the voice/music theory class
- DJ Ivo: DJ/Producer from Kampala conducting the deejaying class
- Spin : Break dancer from Kampala conducting the breakdance class
- Qreaus: Rapper/poet from Kampala conducting the rap/music class
- Fred Musisi: CKU Local Programme Officer conducting the personal development planning and leadership skills classes

Out of the 32 participants, 11 participants (1 female) registered for the music/rap class; 14 participants (5 female) for the breakdance class; 5 participants took part in the deejaying class.

According to the evaluation, 69.0% strongly agree that the objective of the training was clearly defined, 48.1% strongly agree that it met their expectations, 70.8% strongly agree that the trainers were knowledgeable, 67.9% strongly agree that the tutors involved participants in learning, 50.0% strongly agree that there was adequate time for discussion and feedback, 70.4% strongly agree that the training format was effective and 76.9% strongly agree that they will be able to apply the knowledge and skills gained.

## **12 – CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING IN SOROTI**

The last creative entrepreneurship training took place in Soroti from 29 to 30 August 2015 at Golden Ark, facilitated by Faisal Kiwewa, Director of Bayimba. The training targeted 15 participants from Lira, Mbale and Soroti but only 13 were able to make it for the training. Among them those who attended, 4 were female. Participants were selected using the database of previous training while others were recommended by people in these areas. The training comprised of 1 photographer, 1 audio producer, 1 dancer, 1 graphics designer/dancer/tattooist, 3 rappers and 6 singers. The selected participants were taken through the process of understanding, developing and sustaining a (creative) business idea and enhancing their skills in planning, marketing and communication as well as basic financial and legal knowledge whilst attention was given to participants' personal creative business ideas.

According to the evaluation, 100.0% strongly agree that the objective of the training was clearly defined while 83.3% strongly agree that it met their expectations. 91.7% strongly agree that the trainers were knowledgeable, 67.6% strongly agree that the tutors involved participants in learning and 58.3% strongly agree that there was adequate time for discussion and feedback.

### **13 – BATALO EAST DANCE FEST IN KAMPALA**

Now in its third year, the annual Batalo East Dance Fest is a culmination of a year of working with a wide cross-section of young people and professional dancers from across the globe on traditional and urban dance forms. Batalo East is a Kampala-based organization, composed of some members of TabuFlo Dance Company, Breakdance Project Uganda (BPU) and other individuals who are committed to the idea of bringing traditional and urban dances together in order to preserve and develop African cultural heritage. This year, the fest welcomed the best young dancers from Gulu in collaboration with the Youth & Hip Hop programme and Sarakasi Trust in Kenya and Yole! Africa in DRC. Others came from Rwanda, UK, Canada and Germany, to join their Ugandan counterparts.

A month prior to the event, a member from Batalo East was facilitated to go to Gulu to oversee, share knowledge and skills with the selected group from Gulu, Luofame Dance Force. They had earlier choreographed their dance piece, and the idea of sending a professional dancer was to help them to modify it to performance standards, which went on well for the few days he was there.

The two-day event took place from 29 to 30 August 2015 at the National Theatre in Kampala. Luofame Dance Force, a group of 5 dancers, took part in the Hip Hop Theatre category, introducing Ugandans to a new form of telling stories through hip-hop/urban and traditional dance, a unique treat for theatre and dance fans alike. It was a great experience for them doing this type of fusion of dance with drama/theatre for the first time and the audience loved it.

### **14 – BAYIMBA INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS IN KAMPALA**

A total of 20 artists from the Youth & Hip Hop programme were selected from across the country to participate in this year's three-day Bayimba International Festival. Among those selected were Zamunda, Zion MC, Tushi Polo, Black Pearl and Jay Sentino (Kampala), MC Twitch and Wang Jok (Gulu), LP Shady (Arua), DHU Girls (Mbale) and Invinciblez Dance Unit (Kasese). The aforementioned artists were chosen because of their performances during workshops and festivals. The artists shared their music with the Coordinator, Sylvester Kabombo, which he shared with the Kampala-based live band that was selected to play for them. Rehearsals kicked off the day after their arrival in Kampala and ran until each act's performance day.

Dream House Uganda performed in the National Theatre Auditorium and it was the first time that an all-girls showcase was presented. It was well presented before a huge and cheerful crowd in the auditorium. Other dance performances were done by other crowds' favorite, Invinciblez Dance Unit, in the open space. The Upper Garden stage was opened by MC Wang Jok from Gulu, followed by performances from MC Twitch, Jay Sentino, Black Pearl, Tushi Polo, Zamunda and Zion MC in the subsequent days. Each musical act had a live set of

45mins on stage as they were accompanied by Band Wagon. The rappers also put up a good showcase although the females expressed some nervousness during their performances compared to the previous events where they had been programmed. They had low command of the band and the crowd in some of the songs.

### **15 – HIP HOP BOOT CAMP IN MBALE**

The Hip Hop Boot Camp is a multilingual intensive two-week residential workshop aimed at conveying music industry skills to talented musicians who have the potential to breakthrough and become successful in the music sector. The sessions are delivered by a variety of facilitators offering a varied programme in various aspects of the music business.

This year's Hip Hop Boot Camp took place from 2 to 13 November 2015 at Green Gardens Hotel in Mbale. This year there were 13 participating artists, 3 of them female. Some of the participants were selected through the regional workshops database and others through an online application process (advertised through the project's Facebook page).

During the first week participants were taken through various lectures ranging from *Cultivating Hip Hop Success, Internet as a Resource, Music Business, Songwriting, Live Performance Preps and Artist Management* among others. The sessions were delivered by experienced lecturers and music industry professionals, i.e. Faisal Kiwewa (Bayimba Foundation), Fred Musingi, CKU Local Programme Officer, Skinnie (Infinit3 Records), Qreaus Emmy (Rap Facilitator), Patrick Ashyby (Sawa Records), Titan Mukasa (Recording Assistant), Charlie Pro (Infinit3 Records), Kaz Kasozi (Facilitator/Producer), Abramz (Facilitator), Ruyonga (Facilitator), GNL (Facilitator) and Shadrak Kuteesa (Facilitator).

Daily physical fitness was conducted by Sam Leumas from Mbale, one of the beneficiaries during the first phase of the programme (2011-2013). He took them through different drills every day to work on their physical strength and concentration. There were also *mind games* that required a full participation of the facilitators and participants to work together. This helped the participants to get used to the boot camp style and to be free with each other.

In the subsequent week a mobile studio was set up in one of the rooms and recording kicked off on Monday 9 November 2015, with a different schedule for each producer. To nurture collaborations in song composition, the artists were divided into groups of different cultures and backgrounds to sit together, create and share ideas. The created groups were assigned to the 4 producers. A 10-track audio album was recorded in the course of this week. Each participant got a finished copy of the CD while the rest will be used for promotion and media purposes.

## **ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS**

During the second year (of the second phase), the programme became well-known and well-established across the (Northern Ugandan) region. The various training opportunities were eagerly awaited by young people across the region. Although some practical challenges were met (rain, power cuts, delays in transport, insufficient rehearsal time etc.), the activities that have formed the basis of the programme were implemented according to plan. Training activities were successfully conducted and the performances were well-planned and executed. It is noted with pride that the focus on female participation this time resulted in a considerable increase of female participants, both in trainings and as performers.

Through the trainings participants across the region further improved their artistic and creative skills, which resulted in an increasing number of artists producing qualitative arts. This year, selected participants were also introduced to entrepreneurial concepts. Although less creative entrepreneurship trainings took place than planned (it was decided to gather participants in selected locations while a special training was held by an external expert for selected participants at DOADOA), such trainings opened up a whole new world to the majority of participants. Promising participants from the new regions were also selected to perform at festivals and events, a good opportunity to collaborate and interact with other artists as well as to showcase and expose themselves to promoters, event organizers, music and video directors, media etc., making these experiences more than just a performance. This has already resulted in multiple collaborations between artists, including across disciplines. It is expected that this will eventually also result into an increasing number of artists successfully managing their career or running their own creative business.

Nurturing youth leadership in the various regions with a view to encourage them to sustain their own initiatives also remained an important component. As a matter of fact, the Arua scene managed to pick up and get up to speed with other regions from the previous phase. There is now a good level of vibrancy within the Hip Hop community. Also in Moroto – despite being still less connected due to limited internet access – people have moved on. In the new areas some initiatives have come up already as well. In Kitgum Hoppy Benny, one of the project beneficiaries, is taking a lead with the Northern Uganda Hip Hop Culture initiative, organising weekly trainings at Kitgum Youth Centre and monthly (music and dance) events under the name “Kiti Gat Krazy”. In Lira some artists have reorganised themselves under the youth initiative Lango Artists on the Move that was once established. Despite the fact that in Soroti there are no nearby youth centres, the dance group that was formed following the training there is still active. During the coming year emphasis will be on assisting these (and other) initiatives to continue their activities and grow on their own.

Despite progress achieved, it is noted that not all activities were implemented according to schedule. Discussions on a mentorship programme with a (local) third party were put to a halt since there was no tangible result (although mentoring on an informal basis continued).

The Hip Hop TV shows did not take off as hoped, but video material continued to be plugged into other shows and broadcasts. Recordings took place for the Hip Hop Boot Camp participants but further recordings took place only on request. Equipment was identified as well as a consultant for the planned market survey, but these activities were discontinued following the news of changes within CKU (see below).

### **WAY FORWARD**

Given the phase out and dissolution of CKU, some changes will have to be made to the last year of the programme. In close consultation with CKU it was decided that during the last year, next to a Hip Hop Boot Camp (in Fort Portal this time) and performances at the Bayimba International Festival in Kampala, focus will be on setting up an (self-sustaining) Academy that accommodates the (Hip Hop) curriculum that has been developed over the past years. This involves setting up a formal structure, further developing the curriculum, further training of trainers, acquiring necessary equipment and ensuring accreditation etc.