****

**THE CONSTITUTION**

**OF**

**ELGON CHILD WATCH INITIATIVES-UGANDA**

**(ECWI-U)**

**(SIRONKO DISTRICT)**

# **NOVEMBER 2016**

THE CONSTITUTION OF ELGON CHILD WATCH INITIATIVES-UGANDA

# ARTICLE 1: NAME AND LOCATION

* + 1. The name of the organization shall be ELGON CHILD WATCH INITIATIVES- UGANDA (ECWI-UG) hereinafter referred to as the organization.
		2. The Offices of the organization shall be located in Kafubi, Bugwagi Parish, Nalusala Sub County in Sironko District and shall use the following contact addresses;

Email: elgonchildwatchinitiativesug@gmail.com

Website: elgonchildwatchinitiatives-uganda.yolasite.com

* + 1. The Organization shall be non-profit making, non-partisan and non-religious denominational.
		2. The organization shall be deemed to have come into force after registration at the District by the Community Based Services Department.

1.2 ORGANIZATION’S THEMATIC AREAS/AREAS OF EMPHASIS.

The following will be the organization’s thematic areas or areas of operation

* + 1. CHILD PROTECTION. The organization will from time to time ensure child protection through ensuring and advocating for the rights of children aged 0-22.
		2. SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH. The organization will also take keen operation in the areas of sexual reproductive health and rights of all children aged 0-22 years. This will aim at stopping practices of early marriages, forced marriages, unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions amongst the girls, FGM, rape, defilement and so many others that may violate the sexual reproductive rights of the youth and children in the area of operation.
		3. CLIMATE CHANGE. The organization will also involve its self in the climate change issues by ensuring conservation of nature within the community of operation. This will be done through tree planting projects, proper disposal of polythene bags campaigns, renewable energy like bio-gas, solar and better methods of farming among others.
		4. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT. This will aim at supporting community members and improving their standards of living through micro-finance training and entrepreneurship skills so that they can become self reliant.
		5. WATER, SANITATION AND SOLAR. The fact that water and sanitation play a pivotal role in the growth and development of the young children and community at large, the project will strive its efforts in the provision of safe and clean drinking water through regular sensitizations.

1.3 ORGANIZATION’S TARGET POPULATION

ELGON CHILD WATCH INITIATIVES-UGANDA’s target population will include the following categories of people;

* + 1. Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC).
		2. Children in conflicts with the law.
		3. Child headed families.
		4. Street children.
		5. Children with children.
		6. Marginalized families.
		7. Children living with HIV/AIDS.
		8. Families facing domestic violence.

1.3.9 All children from the age of 0-22 years.

1.4 PROJECT CORE VALUES

The following will be the core and guiding values of ECWI-UG;

* + 1. Respect and dignity
		2. Accountability.
		3. Transparency.
		4. Christian love for one another.
		5. Respect for diversity where all people with different background are regarded equal.
		6. Honesty.

# ARTICLE 2: GOAL, VISION AND MISSION OF THE ORGANISATION

* 1. **GOALS**
		1. To improve the effectiveness of child protection intervention in Uganda and reduce abuse of child rights.
		2. To ensure zero or reduced cases of child abuse in Uganda and Sironko in specific.
	2. **VISION**

We envisage a community where all children reach to their fullest potentials in life through protection of their survival, participation and development rights for holistic child growth and development.

* 1. **MISSION**

To enhance the quality of life of all children through protection of all child rights (protection, survival, development and participation rights)

# ARTICLE 3: OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANISATION.

3.1.0 OBJECTIVES

* + 1. To carry out capacity building in different communities in regard to the organizations thematic areas.
		2. To carry out advocacy on the rights of children and the youth in the areas of operation.
		3. To engage in partnerships with different NGOs and agencies that work in line with the goal, vision and mission of the organization.
		4. To carry out research on issues that organization works upon (sexual reproductive health and rights, child protection, climate change).
		5. To create child protection committees to handle issues of child abuse.
		6. To do community mobilization and sensitizations.
		7. To empower families in order to provide for their children.
		8. To promote and support basic education of all children in communities of operation by giving help in terms of scholastics.

3.2.0 ACTIVITIES

The organization shall continuously carry the following activities during its time of operation;

* The organization will frequently engage in community mobilizations and bring all members of the community to board. This will be achieved through use of community volunteers, use of church announcements, use of media, use of social media, use of door to door method and others modes of mobilization.
* The organization will time to time engage in partnerships with different organization which can support achieve the broad goal of the organization.
* The organization will also directly involve its self in research work in order to achieve its intended goals.
* The organization will carry on capacity building which will be achieved through;
* Learning exchange visits to successful projects.
* Through meetings like dialogue, membership, and partnership meetings.
* Through conferences and seminars.
* Through trainings.
* The organization will also carry on advocacy work by specifically targeting people of influence in the local government and other organization which will include sub county CDOs ,sub county CHIEFS, the police, the probation ,health service providers the RDC, and courts of law.
* The organization will also be responsible of forming/ formulation of child protection committees and clubs in schools and communities of operation.
* The organization will be engaged in training of the community on its thematic areas and how to achieve the overall goal of the organization.
* The organization will conduct day to day sensitizations on its areas of focus. This will be done through use of methods like PRA (participatory rural appraisals), use of short videos and movies but parked with a message to learn, through use of MDD and use of experts with practical knowledge.
* Community empowerment especially the poor households which can’t provide for their children through trainings on business skills, entrepreneurship skill, and others basic skills for economic growth.
* Starting of ECD centers and strengthen of the existing ones.

# ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP.

* 1. A person shall qualify for membership if;

 (a) He/she is a born, resident of or works in Sironko.

 (b) He/she is an adult according to the laws of Uganda.

 (c) He/she is of sound mind.

 (d) He/she subscribes to the objectives of the organization.

# ARTICLE 5: GENERAL DUTIES OF MEMBERS

 5.1 Every member of the organization shall;

1. Pay a membership fee that shall be determined from time to time by the General Assembly.
2. Pay an annual subscription fee that shall be determined from time to time by the General Assembly.
3. Comply with the provisions of this constitution and resolutions of the Executive committee and General Assembly.
4. Promote, develop, implement and protect the interests of the organization.
5. Meet all the obligations as shall be from time to time be determined by the organizations.
6. Do such work as shall be assigned to him or her by the Executive Committee.

# ARTICLE 6: CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

6.1 A person shall cease to be a member of the organization if he/she;

1. Dies,
2. Resigns,
3. Is certified to be of unsound mind by a recognized medical practitioner.
4. Is expelled from the organization provided that members shall not be expelled unless the Executive committee has heard and given written warning.

# ARTICLE 7: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

7.1 The executive committee shall have powers to suspend any member from the organization if such a member acts and/or conducts himself in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the organization.

7.2 The duration of such suspension shall be at the discretion of the executive committee provided it shall be reasonable in the circumstances.

7.3 The suspended member shall have the right to appeal to the General assembly within three (3) weeks from the date of the decision of the executive committee.

7.4 The General Assembly shall have powers to reinstate, further suspend or expel such a person.

7.5 In case of a disagreement with the decision of the General Assembly, the aggrieved party shall be at liberty to petition the District Community Based Department or the courts of law for further management of the matter at hand.

# ARTICLE 8: ORGANS OF THE ORGANIZATION

* 1. The organs of the organization shall be;
1. The General Assembly.
2. The Executive Committee.

8.2 The General Assembly shall be the overall governing body of the organization.

8.3 There shall be a patron of the organization who shall be a person of high moral standing, integrity and competent as the members of the organization shall determine.

* 1. The patron shall be an ex-officio on the Executive Committee and General Assembly.

# ARTICLE 9: COMPOSITION, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

9.1 There shall be an executive committee of the organization comprising of the Following positions;

1. Chairperson
2. Vice Chairperson
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Publicity Secretary
6. 2 Committee members
7. Patron (Ex-Officio)
	1. The Executive Committee shall have the following duties;
8. Act for and on behalf of the organization in its day-to-day operation.
9. Implement and execute decisions and policies passed by the General Assembly.
10. Discuss and decide on all important matters affecting the organization and bear collective responsibilities of all such matters discussed and agreed upon.
11. Mobilize and manage organization funds and finances.
12. Establish sub committees from it to carry out specific functions.
13. Have powers to suspend any of their members pending approval or otherwise of the General Assembly as provided for by article 7 and temporarily fill vacancies in the executive committee pending elections during the General Assembly.

9.3 The Chairperson shall;

1. Be the overall administrative head of the organization.
2. Call and preside over all executive committee meetings and the General Assembly.
3. Summon all emergency meetings of the organization whenever deemed fit.
4. Coordinate all the activities of the executive committee.
5. Be the principal signatory to the organization bank account.

9.4 The Vice Chairperson shall;

1. Perform the chairperson’s duties in his absence apart from withdrawing money on the bank account.
2. Perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the executive committee or General Assembly.

9.5 The Treasurer shall;

1. Present audited accounts and financial reports at annual general assembly meetings.
2. Be responsible for the finances of the organization.
3. Perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the executive committee or General Assembly.
4. Keep proper books of accounts preserve the books and make them available for inspection by those authorized to do so.
5. Receive and disburse money belonging to ECWI-UG and shall obtain receipts for all money paid out by him.
6. Collect all subscription fees, membership contributions to the capital fund and all other money to which ECWI-UG is entitled.
7. Deposit cash and cheques of ECWI-UG to the bank agreed upon by the General Assembly.
8. Be a mandatory signatory to all financial documents of the organization.
	1. The secretary shall;
9. Keep up-to-date register of all member of ECWI-UG.
10. Give notice of meeting.
11. Take and keep records of all meetings.
12. Perform other duties as maybe assigned by the Executive Committee or General Assembly.
13. Signatory to the organization bank account.
	1. The Publicity secretary shall;
14. Sensitize and market the organization.
15. Pass information to concerned members of the organization as per the scheduled meetings.
16. Play the role of publicity and public relations.

* 1. The two committee members
1. Execute any duty that may be assigned to them by the Executive Committee or General

 Assembly

# ARTICLE 10: ELECTION PROCEDEURE

* 1. All Offices bearers may hold such for a period not exceeding two consecutive terms.
	2. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution a term limit shall be equal to two years.
	3. Unless as the context may otherwise require, elections of the offices bearers shall be held during the General Assembly.
	4. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the method of voting during Executive and General Meetings shall be by secret ballot.
	5. The Executive committee shall have powers to nominate three competent persons to an extraordinary general meeting among whom the presiding officer for the general elections shall be selected one month before the elections provided that no such person shall have connections with or be part of the organization.
	6. Handling and taking over of offices shall be done within five working days from the date of elections.

# ARTICLE 11; MEETINGS

11.1 There shall be executive committee meetings following the procedures below;

1. The executives committee shall meet monthly to conduct business at such times and places the chairperson shall choose.
2. The quorum at the Executive Committee meeting shall be two thirds of the members.
3. The committee may invite any persons of specialized training and knowledge to its meetings for purposes of advising the committee provided that such persons shall not have powers to vote.
4. Subject to the provisions of this constitution, the Executive Committee may regulate these procedures.

11.2 There shall be general meetings organized in the following manner;

1. The organization shall convene an annual general meeting to be known as the general assembly and this shall be specified in the notice calling the same.
2. At the general meeting, the general assembly shall be presided over by the chairperson of the Executive Committee.
3. The Secretary of the Executive Committee shall circulate the notice of the meeting and the agenda one month before the meeting.
4. Determination of any issue at the general assembly shall be by a simple majority vote of the registered members present in person and no proxies shall be allowed. The chairperson shall have a casting vote at the general assembly in the event of a tie.
5. The quorum at any general assembly shall be one half of the total full numbers.
6. The general meetings or general assembly shall take place at such places and time and dates as the Executive Committee may appoint, provided that where the Executive Committee fails to do summons the meeting by fourteen calendar months without reasonable cause, any registered member may cause call of the general assembly by petitioning the Secretary and serving copies to all Executive members.
7. Subject to the provisions of this constitution, the general assembly may regulate its procedures.

# ARTICLE 12: THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12.1 The general assembly shall have the following;

1. Receiving and approving reports from the chairperson of the Executive committee on the activities of the organization for the previous year.
2. Receiving annual reports on projects.
3. Receiving and approving audited financial reports from the treasurer.
4. Deliberating any issue, that may be raised by the members.

12.2 Attendance at the general assembly;

The annual general assembly shall be attended by;

1. Members of the executive committee.
2. All registered members of the organization.
3. Any persons or organizations that may be sharing aspirations with the organization and are sympathetic to the aims and objectives of the organization at invitation of the Executive Committee provided that this category shall not have powers to vote.

12.3 Extraordinary General Assembly;

An extraordinary meeting of the general assembly to conduct urgent business may be convened by;

1. The chairperson of the Executive Committee.
2. The quorum at the extraordinary general assembly shall be one third of the registered members of the organization.
3. Subject to the provisions of this constitution, the extraordinary general assembly may regulate its own procedures.

# ARTICLE 13: SOURCES OF FUNDING

The funding sources of the organization shall include but not limited to the following;

1. Money contributed by members.
2. Money accruing from fundraising activities.
3. Donations from donors and beneficiaries (through project proposal writing).
4. Loans.
5. Government and its line ministries.
6. From partnerships especially other strong NGOs.
7. Personal contributions and sacrifices
8. Any other lawful source.

# ARTICLE 14: BANK ACCOUNT

14.1 Bank account(s) of the organization shall be opened with any bank agreed upon by the General Assembly. The same members may further decide on such other financial institutions deemed fit.

14.2 Except as may otherwise be authorized by the General Assembly, the following Executive Committee members shall each, be signatories to the organizations bank account(s) at any material withdrawal.

1. The Chairpersons.
2. The Secretary
3. The Treasurer.

14.3 In the event of any intention to withdraw money exceeding Uganda Shillings 1,000,000 or its equivalent, 2/3 of the Executive Committee shall have to first approve such.

14.4 Unless as may otherwise be authorized by the Executive Committee, the Treasurer shall not keep in either his official or personal custody any organization money received or not spent for a period exceeding five working days.

# ARTICLE 15: THE ORGANIZATION SEAL

* 1. There shall be a seal for the organization the design of which shall be approved by the Executive Committee.
	2. The seal shall be kept by the Secretary of the organization and shall be used by the Executive Committee to authenticate the official documents of the organization or documents to which the organization is party by its duly authorized officer(s).

# ARTICLE 16: AMENDMENTS

* 1. A member wishing to propose any amendment to this constitution shall give notice of such proposal by sending it to the secretary of the Executive committee at least two months before the meeting of the General Assembly.
	2. On receipt of such proposal, the secretary shall circulate copies of the same to all members.
	3. An amendment shall be affected by a majority vote of two thirds of the members present but entitled to vote.

# ARTICLE 17: DISSOLUTION

* 1. In the event of an admission that the objectives of the organization have failed to be attained by two thirds of the registered members, any member may upon such a basis move a motion of dissolution during the General Assembly.
	2. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the matter of dissolution shall only be affected if the motion is duly debated and carried by three quarters of the registered members provided that the proposal to move such a motion shall have been included on the agenda.
	3. In the event of dissolution and after settlement of the liabilities of the organization, the General Assembly shall appoint a caretaker committee to dispose off the assets of the organization in a manner to be determined by the General Assembly.

# ARTICLE 18: INTERPRETATION

* 1. Any dispute arising out of the interpretation of this constitution that may fail to be settled by the Executive Committee or the assembly shall be referred to a group of five competent and eminent persons to be appointed by the General Assembly.
	2. In this constitution unless the context otherwise requires, any references to the male sex includes the female sex.

We the members of **ELGON CHILD WATCH INITIATIVES-UGANDA** (**ECWI-UG**) do hereby adopt this Constitution and agree to be bound by the terms contained herein above by countersigning on our respective names and titles.

**NAMES TITLE**

1. WADUDU AMBROSE Chairperson
2. NAKKE EUNICE Vice-Chairperson
3. MUSIKA TOM Legal Advisor
4. MAYEDERO PETER Publicity
5. OCEN IVAN General Secretary
6. MAGOMU DENNIS MOSES Treasurer
7. KADDE DERRICK Electoral Comm. Member
8. WALENDA WILLIAM Discipline/Supervisor
9. NIGESA DIANAH Member
10. MAKONGO DERRICK Member
11. NAKKE CHRISTINE Member
12. GIDUDU NICK Member
13. NAFUNA ALLEN Member
14. GIDUDU EDDY Member

**Prepared by;**

**The Members**

**ELGON CHILD WATCH INITIATIVES-UGANDA**

**SIRONKO District**