

## **PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF IRCU PERMANENT HOME**

### **Introduction:**

The Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) is an initiative that brings together different religious organizations in Uganda to work together for common interest. IRCU is made of the Roman Catholic Church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council, the Church of Uganda and the Orthodox Church in Uganda. In order to accomplish its mission, IRCU works with other faith based organizations notably the Uganda Christian AIDS network, the Bahai and the Born Again Faiths in Uganda. One of the cardinal goals of IRCU is to provide a mechanism for enhanced faith based involvement in addressing developmental issues through coordinated approaches, coherence of effort, maximization of synergy and sharing of resources. IRCU exists to promote peace, reconciliation, good governance and holistic human development through interfaith action and collaboration, advocating for the empowerment of member bodies for the common good.

### **Context:**

Over the last 10 years, IRCU has adopted a working model that works through Institutionalized religious Bodies (IRBs) and Faith based organizations. The IRBs are member institutions that form the Inter-religious Council of Uganda. They are the Orthodox Church, the Church of Uganda, the Roman Catholic Church, the Seventh-Day Adventist Church - Uganda Union and the Muslim Supreme Council. IRCU undertakes activities through grants that are given to the above institutions to undertake activities in communities where churches, mosques and small CBOS are located. Therefore IRCU has kept a small number of core staff at its Secretariat. Since its inception, the secretariat has been housed in rented premises mainly from commercial property holders. We started from servant quarters that belonged to the Hope for African Children's Initiatives. It's only recently that the Church of Uganda rented IRCU a two storied block at a reasonable cost to house its staff and property. It is pertinent to note that even with the current stored block from the church of Uganda; there is still limited space for staff and property. In addition, IRCU has launched a new strategic plan (2010-2014), reviewed its structure and new programs such as that of Gender Based Violence and Climate change have been formed. This has resulted in an increase in staff as well as the need for more space and equipment.

### **Why Build a Home?**

- To enhance the credentials of the organization by having its own operational base.
- To Give IRCU visibility in its own work and as it builds the capacity of its sub grantees.
- To have enough space to house staff and property.
- To expand the IRCU resource center where FBOs and religious leaders acquire information.
- To create room for the IRCU Peace center.

### **Strategies for Building the Home**

IRCU will adopt a number of strategies in order to have its own office premises. Prominent among these, management has already begun discussions with the Council of Presidents on how to undertake the building project. Letters requesting for IRB to donate land have been sent to all the Council of Presidents. So far two IRBs i.e. the Catholic Church and the Church of Uganda have expressed willingness to lease plots to the secretariat for this purpose.

However, even with such promises, IRCU still needs funds to purchase land for building. It is IRCU's hope and prayer that the new office block be located outside the Central Business District not only for ease of movement and accessibility but also for future expansion and growth. Other fundraising strategies to be adopted will be through;

- Selling of old assets.
- Direct fundraising from well-wishers including individuals, organizations, Corporations and Companies
- IRCU will in due course request for IRB to designate special prayer days where collections will go towards this project
- Selling of membership cards and subscriptions

### **Financial Considerations**

IRCU requires 1 acre of land (100 decls) for the office Block and a Peace Center. In view of the cost of land 15 KMs outside Kampala, this translates into 1,500,000/= per decimal making the total cost of land to 150, 000,000/=. The building block for the offices is estimated at 3Billion /=. IRCU estimates that the project will be completed in 3 years beginning January 2012.



