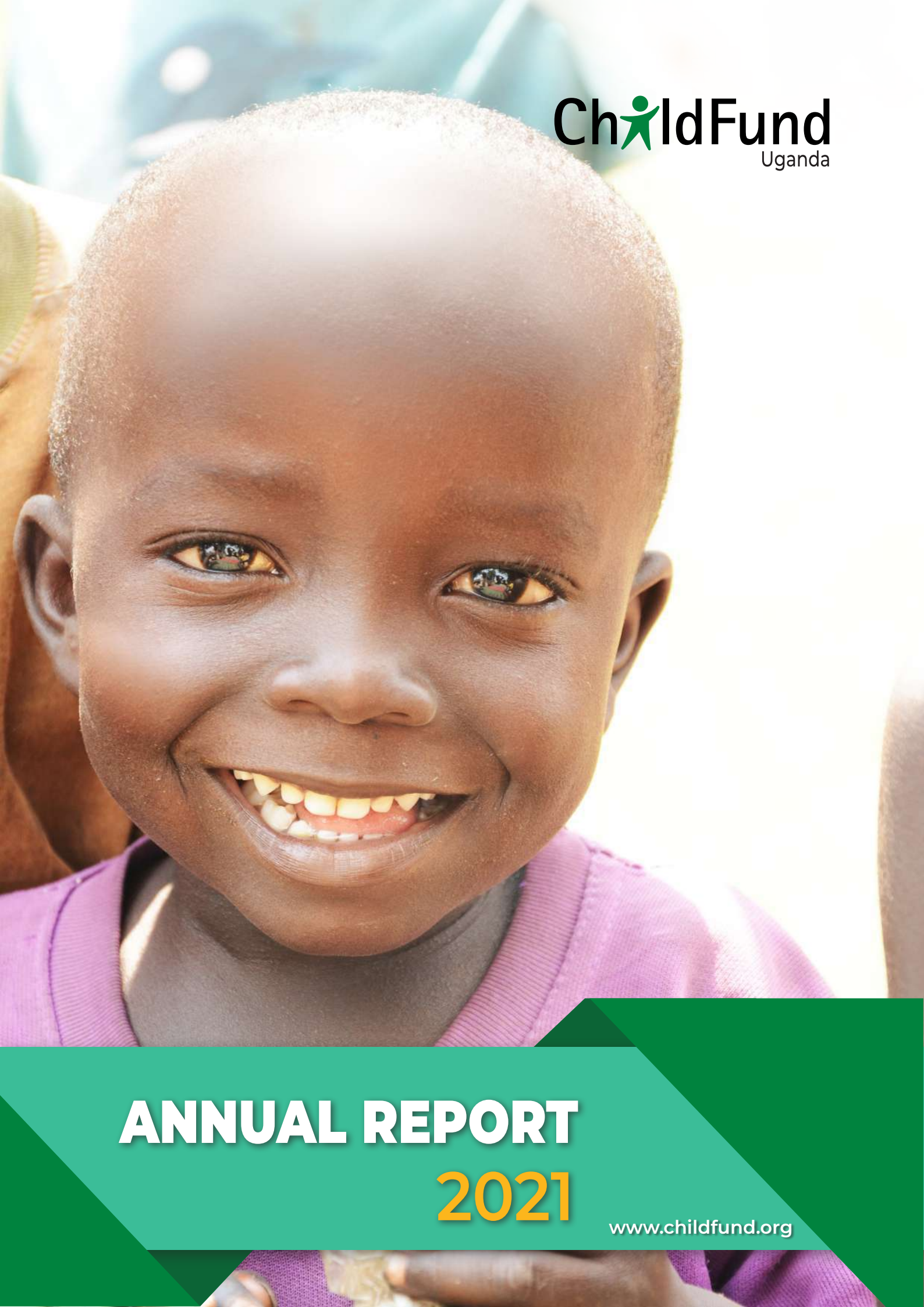


ChildFund Uganda

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

www.childfund.org



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Country Director's Note



Dear Readers,

The Financial Year (FY) 2021 (July 2020 – June 2021) was unusual just like the previous FY as we continue adapting to living with the COVID-19 pandemic. With a laser focus on improving the welfare of the children we serve, we have remained rooted in the organization's values of promoting positive outcomes for all our program participants.

Despite the tumultuous times, our staff both at the Country Office and our local partners have demonstrated exceptional commitment and flexibility in doing both individual tasks and working as a team. As a result, we reached over 228,940 children directly with different targeted programs and interventions to address varied needs.

One of the challenges that have been prevalent in the FY has been the rising cases of Violence Against Children (VAC) and adolescent pregnancies. This has been exacerbated by various factors including parents/caregivers transferring stress caused by COVID-19 such as loss of income streams and jobs onto children.

Our response has been to ensure that parents are empowered with information on positive parenting so that they can ably support children and ensure that they are kept engaged and active. This is in addition to supporting caregivers to rebuild their livelihoods through micro-grants and cash transfers. Over **91,000** caregivers were reached with family strengthening and empowerment initiatives.

Some of the key highlights of our work included, supporting children to continue learning from home; a total of 5,710 children were supported with home study materials developed by the National Curriculum Development Center and Ministry of Education and Sports. This activity targeted three categories of children: those under Early Childhood Development, primary school-going children, and those in secondary school.

We also supported youth in acquiring vocational skills and gave them tools and start-up capital to start up income-generating ventures and earn a decent living.

Through our humanitarian work in Parolinya Refugee Settlement, the Child-Friendly Spaces that we run were a beacon of stability for children during this period. The children had safe spaces to play, learn and interact with each other and receive psychosocial support.

We also participated actively in national and district-level advocacy events geared towards improving the welfare of vulnerable children. This has been through Joining Forces Alliance, and with government through line ministries and district local governments in the areas of operation. I must emphasize that none of this would have been possible without the generosity of our donors: individuals, foundations, corporations, and ChildFund Alliance Members.

The major challenge remains the COVID-19 pandemic which continues to impact people negatively. There was a halting of interventions and a total change from development to emergency programming, hence affecting achievement of some project milestones.

We have continued to adapt and are looking forward especially to the growth of ChildFund's reach and having more children access the opportunities and resources they need to thrive and live up to their full potential. With all your support, we will continue to walk the talk by working hard and leveraging the connections we have built to meet the needs of children that need help the most.

Above all, we are grateful for everything that we have been able to achieve in the financial year and we look forward to the next year with enthusiasm.



MOSES OTAI



Through our humanitarian work in Parolinya Refugee Settlement, the Child-Friendly Spaces that we run were a beacon of stability for children during this period.

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Abbreviations

ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
CBCPM	Community-Based Child Protection Mechanisms
CCTs	Center Coordinating Tutors
CDO	Community Development Office
CFA	Child-Friendly Accountability
CFC	Child-Friendly Center
CFPU	Child and Family Protection Unit
CFS	Child-Friendly Spaces
CID	Criminal Investigations Department
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CO	Country Office
COVID-19	Corona virus Disease 2019
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CYAP	Children and Youth-Adult Partnership
DEV	Deprived, Excluded and Vulnerable
DIS	District Inspector of Schools
ECD	Early Childhood Development
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GoU	Government of Uganda
HCT	HIV Counselling & Testing
HH	Household
ICCM	Integrated Community Case Management
IECD	Integrated Early Childhood Development
IGA	Income-Generating Activities
IP	Implementing Partner
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
MED	Micro Enterprise Development
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
MNCH	Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NiE	Newspapers in Education
NSP	Non-Sponsorship Program
PSS	Psychosocial support
PTA/SMS	Parents-Teachers Associations/ School Management Committees
UPE	Universal Primary Education
VHTs	Village Health Teams
VSLA	Voluntary Savings and Loans Associations
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
YLP	Youth Livelihood Programme

ChildFund Uganda

OUR VISION

A world in which children realize their rights and achieve their potential.

OUR MISSION

HELP deprived, excluded and vulnerable children have the capacity to improve their lives and the opportunity to become young adults, parents and leaders who bring lasting and positive change in their communities.

PROMOTE societies whose individuals and institutions participate in valuing, protecting and advancing the worth and rights of children.

ENRICH supporters' lives through their support of our cause.





About
ChildFund International

ChildFund International is a child-focused international development organization that works throughout Asia, Africa, and the Americas to connect children with the people, resources, and institutions they need to grow up safe, healthy, educated, and skilled, wherever they are.

Delivered through over 250 local implementing partner organizations, our programs address the underlying conditions that prevent any child or youth from achieving their full potential. We place a special emphasis on child protection throughout our approach because violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect can reverse developmental gains in an instant. In the FY, we reached 16.2 million children and family members in Africa, Asia, and the Americas with programs and services, and another 21.5 million with related and useful broadcast information.

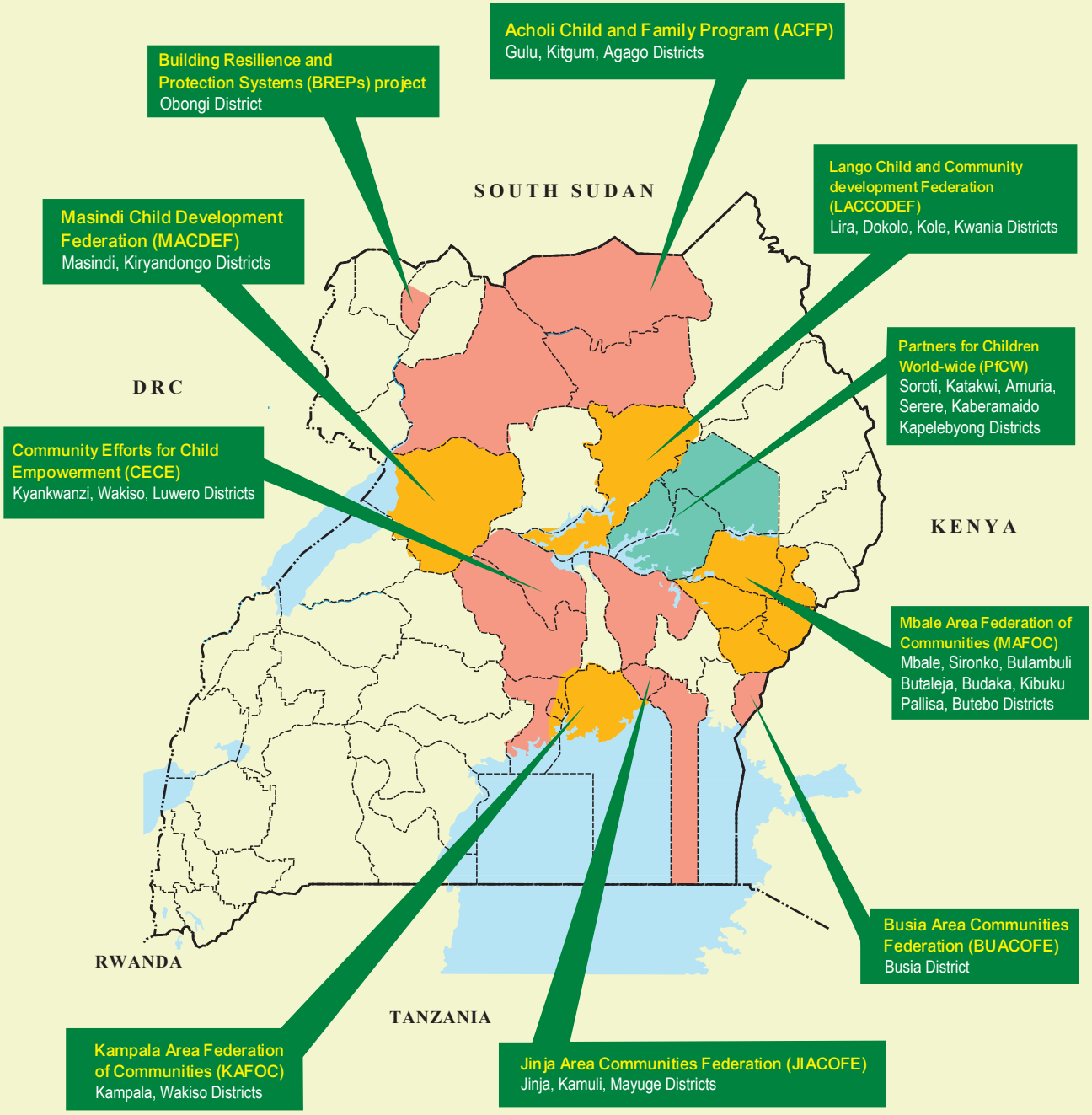
ChildFund Uganda

ChildFund has run programs in Uganda since 1980. The organization's programs started with supporting a wide range of child-centered development work in Northern, Eastern and Central regions of the country. The programming evolved and integrated disaster mitigation and emergency relief programs in Eastern and Northern Uganda during the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) insurgency in the early 1990s. Today, the Country Office (CO) is implementing fully-fledged long-term development programs supported by our sponsors and donors around the world.

Currently, our programs focus on Child Protection; Education, Early Childhood Development, Advocacy, Emergency Response, Health and Nutrition, Food Security, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), Household Economic Strengthening and Youth Development. These programs are implemented by our local partners that include the following; Acholi Child and Family Program (ACFP) in northern Uganda, Lango Child and Community Development Federation (LACCODEF), in northern Uganda, Masindi Child Development Federation (MACDEF), in mid-west; Partners for Children Worldwide (PfCW), Busia Area Community Federation (BUACOFE), Mbale Area Federation of Communities (MAFOC) and Jinja Area Communities Federation (JIACOFE) in eastern. In central region, we work through Kampala Area Federation of Communities (KAFOC) and Community Efforts for Child Empowerment (CECE). Funding for the programs implemented through LPs is through child sponsorship and grants.

A total of **29,734** children are enrolled in the country's sponsorship program, with **23,531** individual sponsors.

AREAS OF OPERATION



Key Achievements

The total number of people reached through the different interventions and programs implemented in the FY



Child Friendly Learning Environments

40,759 Children
1,984 Adults

Child Protection

11,297 Children
8,616 Adults

Children, Youth and Adult Partnerships

1,467 Children
396 Adults

Community Health Initiatives

32,491 Children
11,357 Adults

Early Childhood Development (ECD)

3,670 Children
419 Adults

Household economic strengthening initiatives

39,314 Children
18,040 Adults

Governance and Capacity Building

11,143 Children
9,508 Adults

Youth Livelihoods, Life skills and Sexual Reproductive Health

18,588 Children
1,854 Adults



FY21 Highlights from Sponsorship Funded Programs.

Early Childhood Development (ECD)

Early Childhood Development (ECD) aims at the holistic growth of a child, socially, emotionally, intellectually, and physically. However, early learning and development in Uganda is compromised by a number of factors such as lack of pre-schools, lack of qualified teachers, limited awareness and appreciation of the importance of ECD, among others. Only 37% of young children attend pre-primary education in Uganda. The situation has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which led to the closure of all education institutions.

Optimal brain development requires a stimulating and enriching environment, adequate nutrition, learning opportunities and social interaction with attentive caregivers. However, due to the pandemic, access to these opportunities was severely restricted, compromising the health, physical and cognitive developmental of many children.

In the FY, ChildFund Uganda, through the implementing partners, executed a number of activities to address the gaps that were widened by the pandemic.

Parent boost guides developed by National Curriculum Development Center (NCDC) were printed and provided to caregivers to help them support children who had never gone back to school since March 2020. Home study materials and family visits conducted by ECD teachers continued to give hope to children as they were kept updated on the learning concepts. As a result, caregivers gained a positive attitude towards supporting their children to learn while at home and this will enable the children to easily catch up when schools open.

Lango sub-region, **1,032** caregivers received the ECD home study guide to support children to continue learning from home amidst closure of centers. In some areas of operation, ECD teachers were identified, mentored and equipped with skills to support caregivers and enable them to engage children appropriately during their stay at home.

In Busoga sub-region, **12** trained ECD teachers provided home-based ECD support to 286 caregivers in six communities. This activity enhanced the knowledge of parents on children's safety at home, use of locally made play materials, and relationship building with children, interesting children to participate in house chores, hygiene, and sanitation.

A total of **1,116** parents across the supported communities were trained in making play and learning materials using locally available resources to be able to support children learn while at home. This promoted learning and play for ECD going children who had limited access to learning due to closure of educational institutions.

In Acholi and Busia areas, ECD centers were assessed to ensure that they meet government quality standards. A total of 11 ECDs developed action points from previous quality assessments and the action points were being implemented to give children a comfortable environment that facilitates better learning outcomes.

Construction and renovation of ECD centers

In a bid to create a conducive learning environment, ChildFund supported construction of 8 ECD centers, renovation of 6 ECD centers, and equipping of 5 ECD centers with required materials to facilitate children's' learning in Jinja, Masindi, Kiboga, Gulu and Lira districts. A total of 567 children are anticipated to benefit from the infrastructural development, renovation and equipping of the ECD centers which has made the centers more child-friendly and conducive for learning.

Through the implementing partners, ChildFund supported mobilization and sensitization of parents on the value of ECD, their role in management of ECD centers and transition management of children. This is anticipated to have improved parents' understanding of their roles in child upbringing.

ChildFund activities in ECD development have contributed to the vision of the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy of Uganda which aims to see all children in Uganda from conception to 8 years grow and develop to their full potential.

To ensure that children learn while at home, the CO, through the implementing partners, supported the printing of home-study materials developed and produced by NCDC and the Ministry of Education and Sports. A total of **4,026** children **(515** ECD children and **3,511** lower primary-going children) benefited from this activity. Instructional and learning materials were printed/ duplicated and supplied to children in their homes.



Education

Despite Uganda introducing Universal Primary Education (UPE) 24 years ago, to increase access to basic education, and ensure all children receive quality primary education, several challenges hinder the realization of this vision. The 2016 Uwezo Assessment report, for example, shows that, on average, 8 out of 10 Primary three pupils and 2 out of 10 Primary seven pupils are unable to read a Primary 2 level story. This situation was worsened with the onset of COVID-19 where the education of 15 million children was interrupted. School closures across the country made it difficult for the government to find alternative ways to provide continued education. The CO implemented multiple interventions to address some of these challenges.

In a bid to promote literacy and numeracy in schools, ChildFund Uganda conducted an awareness campaign on the importance of child education in the communities of operation. The aim was to ensure parents appreciate their role in children's education. Emphasis was put on teacher/ parent partnerships in support of children's learning. ChildFund also facilitated parents and pupil dialogues on children's learning at the school level. A total of 12 dialogue meetings were organized to enhance and promote children's learning led by caregivers. A total of 605 parents participated in the dialogue meetings.



Yoana, 7, being supported by a teacher to learn counting from home in Mbale Distrcit using locally sourced materials

ChildFund also facilitated teacher volunteers to support home study sessions with children. A total of 206 teachers were engaged to support remote learning sessions and this arrangement benefited 2622 children.

ChildFund supported the supply of assessment materials and education materials in supported schools. The materials included Newspaper in Education, (NiE), Pass PLE, orthography guide and readers. This activity was meant to promote the reading culture of the learners as well as enhance children's competence in different subjects.

A total of 22,874 children benefited from NiE program.

In some areas of operation, teachers were hired to develop complementary learning materials and support radio education programs. This involved working with District Education Officers (DEOs) to hire teachers to develop more learning materials and support radio programs. A total of 43 teachers across the districts of operation were hired to support this initiative which broadened the avenues that children could learn from as schools remained closed.

To create a conducive learning environment for children aged 6 to 14, ChildFund through an implementing partner, emptied 6 pit latrines in Acowa, Soroti, and Aakum communities. The pit latrines were abandoned because they had filled up. Emptying the pit latrines increased the number of stances in the respective schools with approximately 2,784 pupils.

"Receiving study materials revived my love for learning" - Sylvia

"Reading the same notes over and over became boring so I stopped reading. I started forgetting what I had learnt especially in science subjects," said Sylvia, 16 years.



She had read all the notes she had within a month of school closure and couldn't bear repeating them. Like millions of children around the country, studies of the senior 3 student at Central College Secondary School in Kamuli District were grossly affected by the closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sylvia was among the children ChildFund supported with home study learning materials with content covering all subjects taught in her class. With support from her elder sister, she was able to conceptualize and work out exercises in the home study booklet at home something that kept her challenged and revived her love for studying.

Consequently, her grades and confidence improved. In a test that was done during the short period when schools reopened mid-2021, she excelled. "We did a test, and I was the best with 28 aggregates in eight subjects. Every teacher applauded my effort. In my heart, I was thankful to ChildFund for supporting me with reading materials." She said with a beaming smile. Sylvia is determined to become a nurse in the future.



Youth Development

ChildFund supported a youth-owned welding workshop in Wakiso District with equipment to improve the quality of their products

Uganda's population is largely comprised of youth with more than 75% of people being below the age of 30. Although the youth play a crucial role in the country's ambitious goal of achieving middle-income status by 2040, various challenges like high levels of unemployment, poverty, and limited access to sexual and reproductive health and services, have led to frustration and exposed youth to risky behaviors such as gambling, drug abuse, among others.

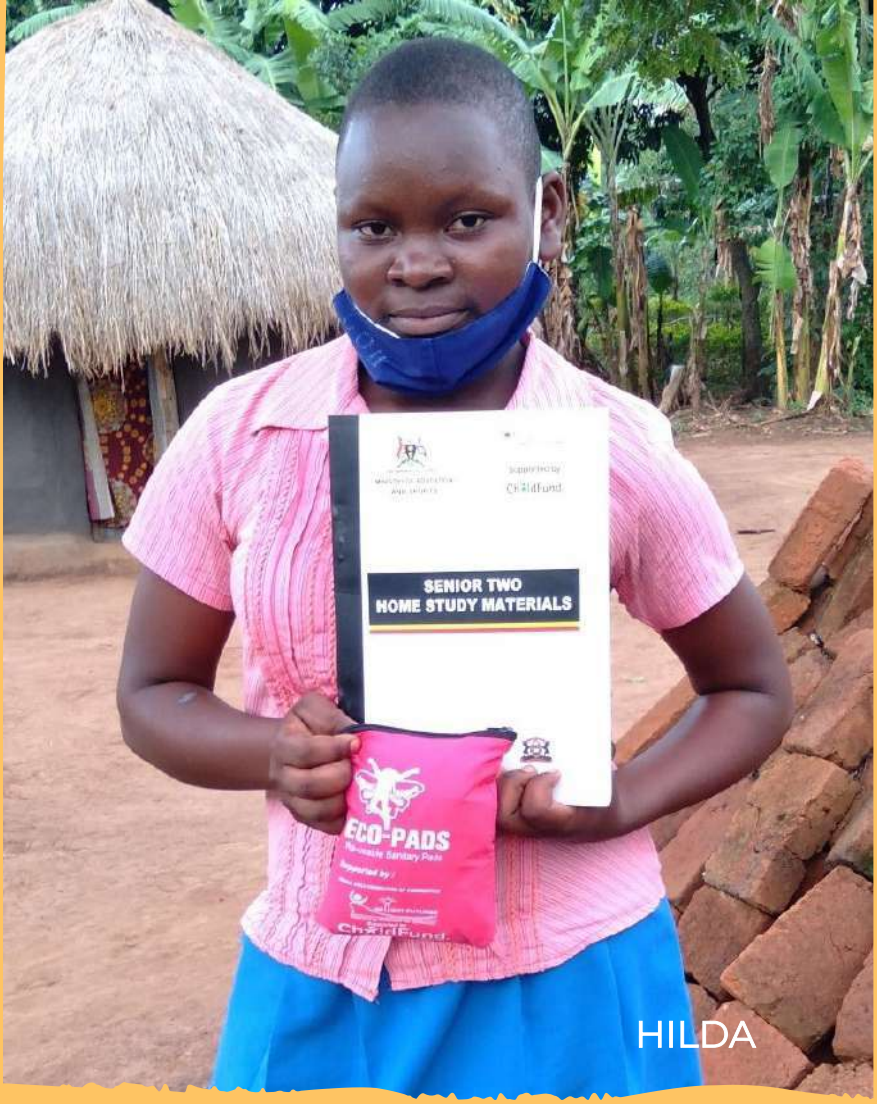
As one of the government's key partners, ChildFund Uganda has done numerous activities to address some of the challenges that affect youth. These were the outcomes of the FY.

Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health And Life Skills Education

ChildFund Uganda supported her 9 implementing partners to reach out to 1,388,084 youth with contemporary information and services related to adolescent sexual reproductive health and relevant life skills. Given that they were mostly at home during the COVID-19 lockdown, the information and services were aimed at enabling young people to make informed health decisions, build their self-esteem, give them hope and enable them to cope during such difficult times including stemming the adolescent pregnancies.

1,388,084

Youth were reached with contemporary information and services through various communication channels



HILDA

Saved from the pressures of early marriage

"You should make yourself more useful by getting married," 16-year-old Hilda was told by her parents in Eastern Uganda. This was after her parents had stopped providing sanitary pads saying that if she got pregnant, they would be saving money by not spending on the purchase of pads. These are woes of a Senior Two student as she grappled with the pressures from her family and community to get married amidst the prolonged closure of schools. This is because most of her peers had been married off and though it wasn't her wish to get married young, she was running out of options.

This however changed when ChildFund distributed reading materials and re-usable sanitary pads to both enrolled and sponsored children in March 2021 in addition to sharing information with girls about protecting themselves from unwanted pregnancies.

> *"The reading materials and pads were a beacon of hope and made me believe that I could still pursue my dreams of being a teacher."*

"We had gone for a youth training, and I felt so shy imagining the staff had overheard me complaining about the lack of support for my education. I had lost hope and so had my parents," she narrated.

"The reading materials and pads were a beacon of hope and made me believe that I could still pursue my dreams of being a teacher".

"Upon getting the study materials, I burst into tears of joy and the staff got concerned and pulled me aside and that's when I told him that I was being pushed into against my wish, Hilda narrated.

She added that since schools re-opened, she teams up with friends to revise the study materials received, her parents paid for her tuition and bought her more sanitary pads.

"I confidently go to school and am sure I shall excel", she said.

Hilda said that she almost gave in to the pressure to get married to a person she didn't know but with the counseling that she received, she is determined to complete school and become a success. The home study materials were my lifeline and great thanks to ChildFund for the timely intervention, she said.



Amplifying the Voices of Youth

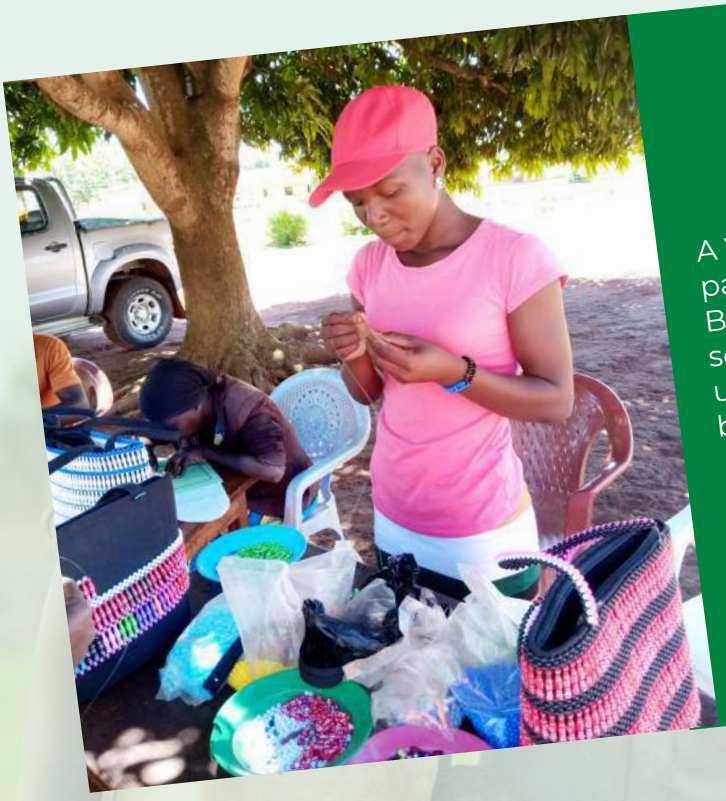
A total of 16 groups of youth constituting 240 members were engaged in an initiative named "Voice Now!". The initiative enables young people to identify their challenges, discuss them amongst themselves, and come up with solutions/projects to address them. This initiative was undertaken by eight implementing partners.

Of the 16 groups, 10 are in their last phase of designing their projects including income generation activities such as bakeries, party care, craft making, and starting advocacy for youth-friendly services, while 2 groups have started income generating projects and are earning an income.

For instance, in Budaka District, the youth group makes and sells handcrafts like purses, ladies' handbags, earrings, necklaces and key holders. They also equip fellow youth in their communities with the same skills at no cost.

According to some of the beneficiaries like Jairan and Mailari, each bag costs about UGX 40,000 ($10). The youth save up to UGX 400,000 ($106) per month. They re-invest part of the money in the bakery (their second micro-enterprise).

> "We are working very hard to excel. We thank ChildFund for introducing us to these skills. Otherwise, I was one of the youths with a cloudy future. We are doing very well, and we are the only group making crafts in our community. The only challenge is the low local market for our products."
>
> Jairan said.



A Voice Now! participant in Budaka District sorting beads to use in making a bag.



A bag ready for sale. Its one of the products that youth made to keep engaged while earning a decent living.

Empowering Youth through Vocational Training

ChildFund Uganda equipped youth with technical and vocational skills. A total of **270** youths were trained in carpentry, hairdressing, mechanical work, metal fabrication, and tailoring among other skills. Of this number 78% of these are employed or running an Income Generating Activity using the skills they acquired.

Jacob appreciates ChildFund for skilling him



From right Jacob and his friends Samuel and Daniel that he works with



Jacob opened a spare parts shop to support his trade



Jacob repairs approximately 6 motor cycles every day

Jacob grew up in an extended family in Gulu District, his father had three wives. Each wife had a field to cultivate and grow food, though the property belonged to their husband, according to the Luo culture. The wives could not decide independently what to do in the field, this often affected the household food security and access to basic needs. The children also attended schools for only three days a week since they had to provide labor at home. They grew food crops like simsim, potatoes, cassava, and millet.

Going through a formal education system was every child's dream in Jacob's community.

"We admired professions like doctors, teachers and police officers. After the 2016 primary leaving examinations were released, I had passed fairly well and was in division 2. And just like most pupils, my dream was to join secondary school. However, I was later disappointed, because my family could not afford to raise money to pay the required fees. My parents asked me to stay home." He recalls.

In May 2020, luck came knocking on Jacob's door. There were opportunities to enroll youth for skilling courses, and career guidance organized by ChildFund. Jacob expressed interest and was identified among the many youths to undergo a one-year training in engine repairs.

"The opportunity to continue with my education was a dream come true because I also got to be part of the positive change in my community. This came at a time when I had no one to look up to, not even my parents could give me hope," remarked Jacob.

He appreciates ChildFund for skilling him, explaining that the training improved his skills, as well his economic situation, and the wellbeing of his family.

"I am now able to earn a living and can save between UGX 10,000-15,000 ($3 – 4) daily. I now support my siblings with medical expenses. I have also started up my workshop, and work with fellow youth, while others come to ask me for advice on how they can take part in ChildFund programs." he stated.

Improving access to Sexual Reproductive Health information and services

During the short period of school reopening in FY, ChildFund through PfCW conducted 18 sessions of life skills and ASRH in the supported schools and 48 peer educators' outreaches targeting young people. 60 Trainers of Trainers received knowledge on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH) education to empower them to adequately support more youth.

Two changing rooms one, in Ocorimongin and another in Abalang primary schools in Aakum and Akani communities were renovated to improve on youth-friendly spaces.

In Lango area, trainings in life skills including ASRH services and where they can be accessed were conducted through radio talk shows featuring health workers and probation officers in Dokolo, Kole, and Kwania. A total of 1,640 youth were reached through this intervention.

With these interventions, it is believed that there has been an increase in the number of youths (in and out of school) knowledge on their sexual behavior.

During the FY, a total of 800 schoolgirls across all the communities received reusable sanitary pads to promote good hygiene and regular school attendance during menstruation periods.



Girls in Masindi District after receiving re-useable sanitary pads



Child Protection

One of ChildFund's core focus areas is deepening child protection measures to achieve fundamental outcomes for children. During the reporting period, ChildFund worked with the 9 implementing partners and in collaboration with external partners to implement child protection interventions in the following areas: strengthening Community-Based Child Protection (CBCP) System, promoting child protection behavior change, and strengthening linkages between child protection actors and communities.

The following were the outcomes achieved:

- A total of 152 local partners' staff were trained to refresh their knowledge in CP. Duty bearers such as medical workers, local leaders, religious leaders, and police officers were also trained on handling child protection cases, responding to risks, case management and follow-up. The refresher training boosted their knowledge to ably support and enhance the capacity of Child Protection structures in their respective areas of operation. As a result, there was evidence of increased networking, coordination, and referral of child abuse cases which has improved children's welfare.

> **In FY21, a total of 402 cases of violence against children were reported and supported through the referral pathways. Most cases reported were on child neglect, teenage pregnancies, child marriage, SGBV, school dropout, defilement, torture/physical abuse, and missing children. The victims were supported with services ranging from counseling, food items, and medical treatment for injuries sustained and facilitating the police department of the Child Family and Protection Unit to reunite families.**

- Coordination of community-based child protection structures has also been strengthened through holding monthly and quarterly coordination and reflection meetings in partnership with the District Probation and Social Welfare officers. Through these meetings, there has been improvement in the management and referral of Violence Against Children (VAC) cases through holding case conferences and generating actions on how to protect children. District referral pathways have been developed and disseminated in the communities, and this contributed to increased reporting of VAC cases.

A total of **52** coordination meetings with CP structures targeting 895 stakeholders were held by the 9 implementing partners during the reporting period.

- Child Protection structures were also supported with work equipment to ease their work. A total of 158 Child Protection Committees (CPCs) were supported with fuel, airtime, and transport facilitation.

- A waiting shelter was constructed at Kiryandongo central police station to ease case management and follow-up. The shelter provides space for the police to handle the child and family-related cases without interference from other civil and criminal cases and serves as a safe space for victims as they await justice.



- Several capacity-building sessions on child-friendly accountability and child protection were held and benefitted a total of 213 participants within the operation areas. They constituted teachers, parents, children and youths. As a result of these sessions, children are now empowered to demand their rights from various stakeholders and duty bearers, and to demand that their issues especially youth are included on the development agenda at the village and district levels. For instance, in the Ibakara community, Kitgum District, two children were identified to present issues that needed to be addressed by the president in a video that was broadcast nationally. "We wish that the government of Uganda provides all children with home reading materials during this lockdown," said Vivian, 16, one of the children's advocates.
- In terms of the legal framework in schools and communities, 3 awareness sessions for 157 participants were conducted in Patongo community in Northern Uganda. Of these participants, 120 were children, and the rest were adults. The adults were able to recognize their constitutional mandate in protecting children from abuse and any form of exploitation, and the existing laws to enforce such mandates.





From left Dorcus (Lucky's mother), Lucky and Sylvia, her grandmother.

Mother reunited with daughter after 5 years

For the past 5 years, Dorcus had not set eyes on her only daughter Lucky who had gone to live with her father and stepmother following their separation. Dorcus realized that Lucky was missing last year when her grandfather was very ill and asked to see her. All attempts to make Lucky's father bring her to the grandfather were futile. Efforts to use local leaders in the community and the clan heads never yielded any success which led Dorcus to seek for support from ChildFund through the local partner LACCODEF.

Her disappearance was brought to ChildFund's attention during a quarterly Child Protection Committee review meeting that took place at Ikwera community. It was alleged that Lucky had been sold off by the father to a woman he claimed to be his mistress.

Together with the Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU) and the Probation Officer (PO), Senior Community Development Officer (CDO), Lucky's father was apprehended, and he confessed that Lucky was in the custody of his mistress living in Masindi District. With the financial support of ChildFund, the Probation Officer, a Police Officer was facilitated to follow up and recover the child. This was a successful mission and Lucky was recovered in good health. The family was sensitized on child protection by the CDF, CFPU and the senior CDO and tasked to take good care of Lucky and ensure she goes back to school when school opens. She has not been studying well for the last five years which has kept her stuck in one class due to lack of school fees. Lucky is currently living with her mother and grandmother.



Advocacy

Over 900 posters and IEC materials were printed and distributed to VHTs, CPCs, and LC1 secretaries for children and women's affairs to use as illustrations during community sensitizations on handwashing best practices, parenting, and home learning in Gulu District.

The CO through Acholi Child and Family Program (ACFP) and the community services department in Gulu, Agago, and Kitgum districts conducted 3 radio talk shows to sensitize masses on COVID-19 prevention and child protection issues that were reported amidst the lockdown, such as child abuse and neglect, school dropouts among others.

A total of **152** children participated in advocacy engagements through media across the supported communities. This included the commemoration of different advocacy days such as Day of the African Child (DAC) themed "30 years after the adoption of the Charter: accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children, "World Refugee Day and World AIDS Day 2020.

Sixty-five community dialogue sessions on child protection that reached over 3,300 parents and leaders were conducted. Due to COVID-19restrictions, the dialogues were had virtually, and sensitization meetings were conducted through radio talk shows targeting the children, community members as well as key child protection players.

ChildFund Uganda through Partners for Children Worldwide (PfCW) and Masindi Child Development Federation (MACDEF) carried out 2 awareness campaigns each on child protection, child participation, and VAC through radio talk shows. The talk shows were successful, as many listeners called to appreciate the program. Through the awareness campaign, many child protection cases have been reported, followed up and managed. The Community Development Office (CDO), Criminal Investigations Department (CID), teachers, and Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU) police officers took lead in guiding the discussions on radio.



Vivian from Kitgum in a video that was developed to commemorate Day of the African Child in June 2021

Child Protection Behavior Change

Four schools in Soroti district (Teso sub-region) implemented the Good School (GS) committee's initiatives which included awards to the most disciplined children, talking compounds and wall of fame boards. The GS is promoting positive discipline and accountability among children and teachers in the 4 schools, noted one teacher from Katine sub-county. This activity was implemented when the schools briefly opened in the FY.

Child Participation

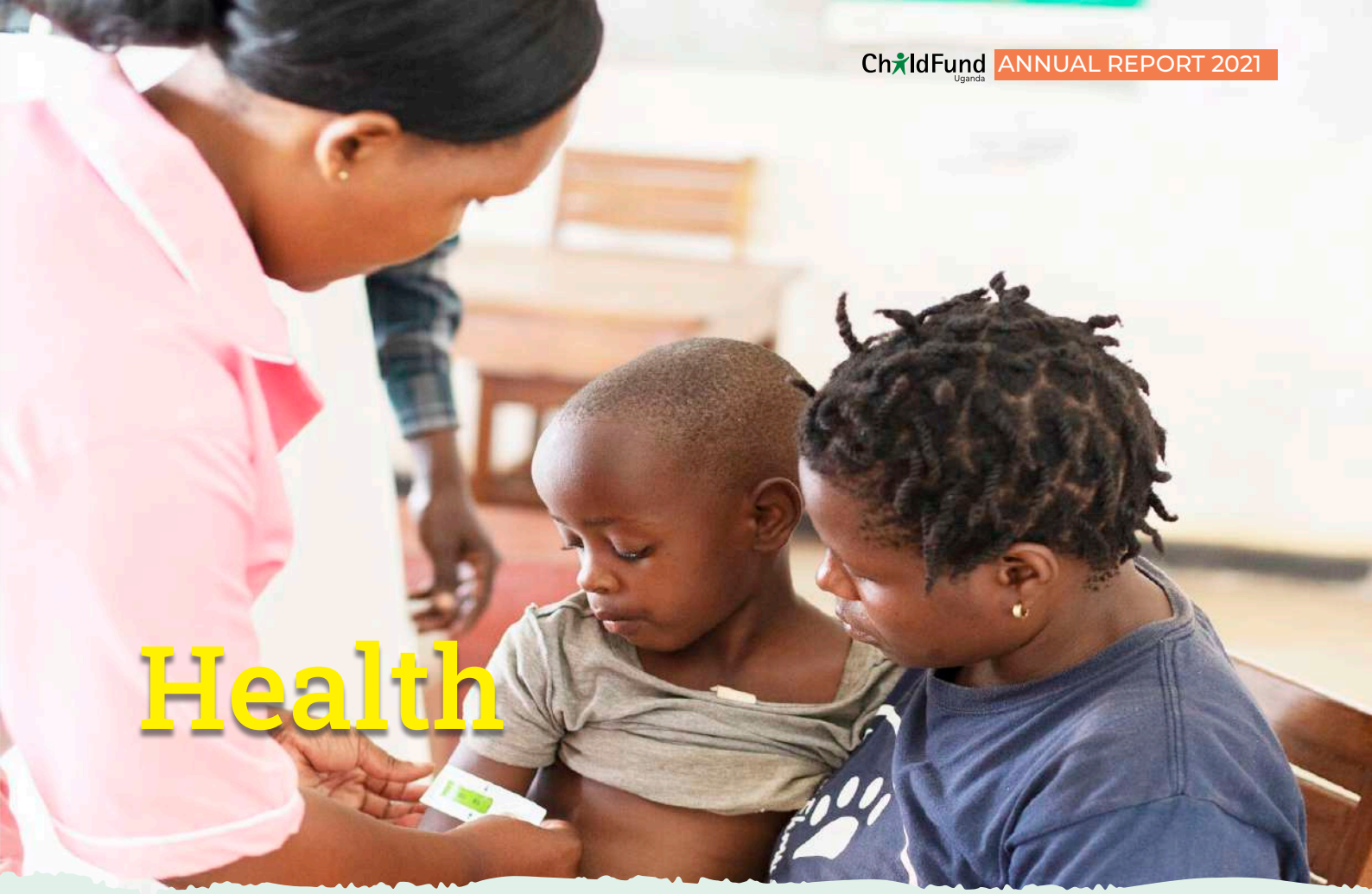
A total of 24 Child Rights Clubs (CRCs) within communities composed of 205 children were formed and trained by MACDEF as a response mechanism to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on children. The CRCs increased children's awareness of their rights and responsibilities, generated constructive dialogue between children and adults regarding issues of abuse, neglect, and expected behavior norms.

Children were equipped with information and support on how to report cases of abuse. At the same time, CRCs gave children a platform to express their opinions, thoughts, and concerns, within their communities to advocate for children's basic rights. A 15-year-old said "Each time I share my story of abuse with my peers, it gives me the courage to overcome pain and shame and builds my confidence to accept and deal with what happened to me, though it is still hard. I can now interact with other children and share my experience."

In the FY, the CO printed and distributed 305 posters containing messages on - child protection referral pathways, steps in case management, and children's rights in the Busia area.

The materials facilitated community sensitizations on areas of child protection, violence against children, and child participation. Busia being a border district, more children started practicing petty trade and getting involved in child labor. The training contributed to an increase in knowledge of the community members on effective detection, reporting, and referring of child protection risks and cases.





Health

In Uganda, thousands of children under 5 years continue to die because of killer diseases such as malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea, which are preventable. During FY21, ChildFund through the nine IPs implemented several health initiatives.

In Northern Uganda, our LP Acholi Child and Family Program worked closely with the district health department, and health facilities to conduct medical screening camps across all the four communities of Patongo, Ibakara, Laroo and Punena. The exercise involved screening **1,205** children of common diseases like malaria, skin infection, deworming, and malnutrition. A total of **215** children were diagnosed with malaria, **122** with tapeworms, and skin infections, which were as a result of early rains that facilitated the breeding of mosquitos.

All children who were diagnosed with any diseases were treated or referred and are now all living healthy in their communities.

ACFP also conducted 3 integrated health outreaches in Patongo, Punena, Ibakara, and Laroo communities. Children under 5 years and pregnant mothers were reached with knowledge on early disease identification and management. Other services provided included immunization, and treatment of common illnesses such as malaria, sharing nutritional messages, ANC, FP, and HCT.

Ten integrated immunization outreaches were conducted in hard-to-reach villages within Masodde Community in Kyankwanzi District. ChildFund facilitated the health workers with fuel to conduct a mass immunization drive for children below 5 years. From this drive 1,068 children were immunized to protect them from killer diseases like measles, tetanus, tuberculosis, and others.

A total of **531** enrolled children from the Gayaza community received treated insecticide mosquito nets to protect them from malaria.

In Jinja District, 1,479 women of childbearing age, and 557 of their male family members from Mpumudde and Budondo sub-counties were reached with monthly counseling on ANC, preparation, and delivery at health facilities, and child immunization. Targeting men in the counseling sessions prepared them to be more involved and supportive of their pregnant wives and how to help in childcare.

Family planning uptake rose according to health facility records and it is believed that the 27 dialogue meetings that were conducted focusing on key health care services reaching 783 people contributed to this increment. Three performance review meetings for health workers and community health structures were held to identify barriers and counter strategies of scaling uptake of the promoted services and practices such as family planning, good sanitation in homes, proper feeding among others. This was carried out in Mpumudde and Budondo sub-counties.

To improve service delivery and efficiency in health facilities, ChildFund equipped a number of health facilities with medical supplies and equipment.



A VHT From Buwenge in Jinja teaching a parent and children about parenting in the pandemic

Strengthening Community Health Practices

To improve health service delivery, ChildFund supported Local Partners to carry out 18 review and planning meetings with 60 village health teams, and identified health workers. These meetings were held across six communities, in Eastern Uganda, 3 in Busia, 2 in Jinja, and 1 in Mbale District. They involved reviewing reporting tools and reorienting VHTs on effective counseling, client follow-up, and referrals to health facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The experience-sharing meetings led to improved reporting and referral of cases to health facilities.

A total of 60 VHTs were supported with megaphones, bags, sanitizers, and masks for their safety as they mobilized and sensitized communities on COVID-19 prevention, promotion of family health practices, awareness-raising on childhood illness, and addressing barriers against health-seeking behaviors. The support extended to VHTs and their regular engagement with households yielded positive results as detailed below:

In Jinja, 116 pregnant mothers and 1956 children below 2 years were reached. Monthly VHT reports indicated that Antenatal Care (ANC) adherence and newborn care and recognition of danger signs improved from 85% to 89%. Child survival practices recorded higher numbers with immunization at 97%, latrine use from 71% to 83%, and handwashing from 68% to 75%.

Family planning also improved from 65% to 74%, while drinking of treated/boiled water remained low at 65%. Consumption of boiled water at the household level remained low due to negative myths and health behaviors that still exist at household levels however, they have been earmarked for addressing through various SBCC (social behavior change communication) strategies.

A total of 81 caregivers and 296 children with unmet needs for immunization, malaria, nutrition, ANC, HTS, and family planning were referred and supported to access the necessary care at different partner health facilities.

The team will step up follow-up efforts with the different referral units especially health units to track access and utilization of health services by the referred clients.

"I had reservations going for antenatal care and delivering from a health facility due to many cases of caesarian birth I used to hear about. My VHT talked to me, and I started going to the health unit for ANC. I had a normal birth to a baby boy from Kamuli General Hospital. I will ensure my child gets fully immunized for his proper safety and protection from illnesses." Namudope, a mother from the Kamuli community remarked during a monitoring visit.

Family health care practices have been strengthened through quarterly mentorship meetings with health workers and facilitating referrals of acute malnutrition cases to get specialized treatment. The VHTs were empowered and are able to address challenges by sharing information concerning key family practices on the improvement of health and nutrition such as promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding using locally available foods, family planning, hygiene, and sanitation. In Budaka District, this initiative has improved linkages between community and health facilities.

COVID-19 Response



Pupils from Kihande Moslem Primary school in Masindi District after receiving masks.

COVID-19 continued to affect the CO program and in the last quarter of the year, Uganda experienced a second wave of COVID-19 pandemic with the number of new cases increasing daily, including among children. From 200 cases per day in April to over 1,000 cases per day in May and June 2021. With the surge in community cases in some of the operational areas, the program delivery was conducted mainly virtually with more focus on essential activities. In June 2021, the government instituted stern emergency measures including a countrywide lockdown; additional in-country travel restrictions (ban on inter-district travels), a curfew from 7 pm to 5:30 am, total school closure, and limiting public gatherings. All the other containment measures like wearing masks, handwashing, and social distancing also remained in force. During the same period, the rate of vaccination remained low with very few doses made available only to priority populations like the elderly and health workers.

CO Response

As part of concerted national efforts to respond and prevent the COVID-19 pandemic, ChildFund Uganda supported IPs to engage in the production and distribution of COVID-19 education and communication materials. The campaign was to ensure that every child, parent, and caregiver received relevant basic facts on COVID-19. This was achieved through facilitating VHTs and child protection committees (CPCs) in several communities. In Buhenye, Buhasaba, and Buyengo communities in Busia district, home-to-home sensitizations were conducted by VHTs using the IEC materials developed by ChildFund and translated into local languages. Over 4,100 households were reached with life saving information.

Copies of IEC materials **(2,000)** were printed and distributed to different households and public places within the communities of Luweero and Kyankwanzi districts.

The Village Health Teams (VHTs) with the support of the community CP structures distributed the materials at the household level. This improved adherence to the guidelines from the government by the children and caregivers because of changed behavior and practices.

Additionally, 109 bags were procured and distributed to the VHTs and health workers for safekeeping of their tools of the trade like sanitizers and IEC materials for educating families.

> **ChildFund supplied 146 megaphones to various groups in the areas of operation to support in the dissemination of messages. These included 67 VHT's attached to 6 health centers: Laroo, Unyama, Punena, Kitgum-Matidi, Akuna-laber, and Patongo in Gulu and Kitgum districts. A total of 39 members of Parents Executive Committees (PEC) in the same area were also supported plus VHTs in rural areas of Kyankwanzi and Luweero districts among other communities.**

The VHTs also received a bottle of sanitizer and mask each to keep themselves protected during community engagements.

In the areas affected by heavy rains, the VHTs were also given umbrellas and gumboots to ease movement.

Twelve radio talk shows about COVID-19 prevention and seeking care were conducted in Luweero and Kyankwanzi districts. Through radio talk shows, featuring supported community development facilitators and district health teams messages on the prevention of COVID-19 were relayed to communities.

Furthermore, IPs procured and distributed 3 tents and 150 plastic chairs for three health centers of Buwumba, Majanji, and Lumino in Jinja district. These provide enough space to keep a social distance between the patients when they visit the health centers.

10 health centers in the rural areas of Luwero and Kyankwanzi districts received medical equipment to prevent transmission of COVID-19 amongst the frontline health workers at the facilities. The medical equipment that was procured and distributed to health centers comprised 10 infrared thermometers, 50 hand sanitizers, 20 handwashing facilities, and 100 medical masks.

Supporting families to economic recovery

Many families' small business tumbled due to COVID-19 with many focusing on affording basic needs like meals. ChildFund responded by offering small grants and seeds to support families re-establish and strengthen their sources of livelihoods so that they can ably take care of children.

A total of **16236** families received microgrants and 4161 were given seeds/ seedlings to boost their crop production.

Regina is reaping big from selling collard greens.

"I am the happiest old woman and grandmother because I can care for my grandchildren Carene and her 3 cousins. My business of selling Sukuma Wiki (Collard greens) is thriving," Regina said. Like most businesses that collapsed because of COVID-19 lockdowns, her business of selling Enguli (local brew) in Busia collapsed due to a lack of customers.



Regina lives with her elderly husband and the two were struggling to care for all four grandchildren. Carene, 17 years who is the eldest had started a course in tailoring but getting her tuition was a big challenge with no money being earned by the family.

"I was surviving well before COVID-19, and all my grandchildren were studying well and Carene was enrolled into a tailoring course with the belief that she would support her siblings since I am now aging and have no energy to take care of them." She lamented.
The family resorted to planting collard greens and selling them for survival. Regina said it was turning out to be a lucrative business and through interaction with other vendors, she had learnt that there was high demand for Sukuma wiki in Kenyan markets, which neighbors their village.

She initially bought one tin of sukumawiki seeds at 15,000UGX (4USD) and got some profit from it but due to family needs, the capital was being consumed and little was left to enable them to buy more seeds for planting.

During a monitoring activity, Regina's family was selected to benefit from vegetable seeds that were distributed to enrolled families. She received 6 tins, hired more land where she was able to plant more sukumawiki to meet the market demand.

The harvests were good, and this enabled her to earn profits that have enabled her to pay for her granddaughters' fees at the tailoring institute. Regina now earns 25,000 UGX (6 USD) per sack of Sukuma wiki (collard greens) harvested and so far, she has bought a kid goat and noted that it's the start of her benefits from the seeds she received. She also plans to buy a calf that will generate more income at home to support the grandchildren.

"I am grateful for the support from ChildFund because out of the seeds am now able to pay fees and feed, my grandchildren and I am looking forward to having my granddaughter be self-sustaining so that she can help her siblings", I can also save some money in the Village Savings Loan Association group" - Regina.

Sustaining a Savings Group amid COVID-19 crisis.

Caregivers (13 females and 4 males) in Busia felt helpless as economic hardships due to the COVID-19 hit led them to dip into savings the group had accumulated since its establishment in 2016. Bwire the group secretary said that due to the increasing needs of children who were staying at home fulltime, feeding them, clothing them among other family needs making most of the group members fail to remit regular contributions."

Another member of the group also decried the effects of COVID-19 saying that her small grocery business collapsed because customers had no money and always took items on debt".



Instead, the members of Hahaba Hadidi Olya Nowasyo translating to "the little you have you share with a friend" Village Savings and Loan Association (VLSA) were borrowing frequently, and eventually, there was not enough money for everyone to borrow. This situation almost sunk the VSLA and members to disintegrate.

"ChildFund through the IP Busia Area Federation of Communities initiated a program of training and provision of seed capital to groups to establish Micro Enterprise initiatives for instant income generation.

The VSLA surveyed profitable enterprises in their community and members selected bar soap production. The ground underwent practical training in soap making, marketing, and how to boost their savings in December 2020. The group was given 1,134,000 UGX (312USD) for the purchase of materials to use in bar soap production in February 2021.

With the seed capital, skills, and knowledge received, the group has since produced 236 bars of soap and was able to sell 230 bars. The soap is sold locally as each member is given bars to sell after which the money is given to the group treasurer for safekeeping and records. The group invested 567,000 UGX (156 USD) and they earned 690,000 UGX (190 USD) after selling the products. This earned them a profit of 123,000 UGX (33 USD) within 20 days of their first-time production. The group chairperson Mrs. Ajiambo Beatrice said, "We will generate more profits for savings as we reinvest our capital for more production".

The soap-making project has restored hope in all members, and they are proud of the profits realized in this short period.

"Most of our neighbors buy soap from us and they love the soap because it washes well". Additionally, having soap has saved the members from spending on sanitizer, which is expensive.

Hahaba Hadidi Olya Nowasyio VSLA group with the soap they made

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

To improve access to clean and safe water for consumption in Lango communities, ChildFund distributed water purifiers in Apyen-nyang community. The health workers oriented the recipients on proper usage for better health outcomes. A total of 374 caregivers received the water purifiers and it is believed that community practices have changed for the better resulting in reduced cases of water-borne diseases. People boil water before drinking and by using purifiers, water is ready to drink after undergoing purification right from the source.

Six district officials and project staff participated in four radio talk shows focusing on household hygiene and sanitation improvement. The talk shows were held on Kiboga and Hoima radio stations, which have the widest coverage and listenership in the area.

The radio talk shows did not only prepare the participating community members for the sanitation and hygiene competitions but also sensitized community members about the need to improve on their everyday sanitation and hygiene practices. The opportunity was also used to share messages about COVID-19 prevention to an estimated listenership of over 50,000 people.

A total of 1,000 IEC materials (posters) on hygiene, sanitation and COVID-19 prevention were distributed to households and in public places in six sub-counties of Wattuba, Butemba, Byerima, Nsambya, Bananywa, and Kyankwanzi. messages.

A total of 2,555,040 sachets (10,646 cartons) of P&G water purifiers were distributed to 37,639 project participants in 7,000 households and 3,118 participants in 25 primary schools in Kyankwanzi District.

Working with sub-county health assistants, ChildFund trained school WASH committees in promoting hygiene and good sanitation in schools. The training was done in the eight supported schools of Pageya, Gulu Primary Teachers College, Lokodi, St. Martine, Kitgum Matidi, Layamo, Patongo, and Moodege primary schools. This activity targeted children and 75 staff in the supported schools.

Additionally, ChildFund procured and supported 8 community schools with handwashing facilities to improve hygiene and sanitation to prevent the



Children demonstrate water purification using P&G on World Water Day celebrations in Kyankwanzi. In shot unfiltered water that was brown.





spread of COVID-19. The items purchased were footstep handwashing facilities, water collecting items, sanitary towels for girls, detergents among others.

In Teso area, ChildFund conducted 6 health campaigns across 6 communities where **3,418** families were reached with information on the importance of using clean water, practicing good hygiene practices, and sanitation to live healthier lives.

Household (HH) assessments were conducted by the Village Health Teams/ Health assistants. Trigger meetings were conducted using Community Led Total sanitation (CLTS) groups which led to the construction of WASH facilities among HHs, and sensitization on the relationship between COVID-19 and hygiene.

ChildFund drilled a total of 7 boreholes, one in Mbale, Butembe in Jinja, Punena in Gulu district, Acenlworo, and Telela communities in Dokolo and Kwania districts and 2 in Katine in Soroti. This has led to improved access to safe water among children in schools and communities. To keep the drilled water sources well maintained and sustainable, water user committees were selected and trained in safe water chain management and effective operation.



The water after being purified, it became clearer and also safe for drinking

"Working with sub-county health assistants, ChildFund trained school WASH committees in promoting hygiene and good sanitation in schools. The training was done in the eight supported schools of Pageya, Gulu Primary Teachers College, Lokodi, St. Martine, Kitgum Matidi, Layamo, Patongo, and Moodege primary schools."



Children at a borehole constructed by ChildFund in Telela community in Kwania district.

"This borehole has made fetching water more enjoyable"

Daphine, 11, and her family live in Telela Community near Lake Kwania. It's the source of livelihood for most families in the community with many household heads, especially men practicing fishing for a living alongside farming. The lake was also the source of water for home consumption where Daphine, her siblings, and other children in the community fetched water.

This was a chore that Daphine and her peers dreaded because going to the lake meant potentially coming face to face with hippos, crocodiles, and snakes that they knew lived in the waters.



"I was always so scared of going to the lake in fear of crocodiles or hippos eating me or my siblings. Unfortunately, the nearest borehole to our home is in another community and would take us 4 hours of walking to get the water." She said.

This made fetching water from the lake an easier option despite its water being brown and unsafe for drinking.

According to Daphine's mother, Grace "using lake water made the children prone to water-borne diseases like diarrhea and bilharzia. "Early last year, the lake started flooding which made it more unsafe for children to access," she added.

Fortunately, Daphine and her friends don't have to go to the lake anymore because ChildFund constructed a borehole a few meters away from their home. I like pumping water at the borehole, it makes me very happy," she said. She added that the borehole in their backyard makes it easy to wash clothes, utensils, and to get water to cook.

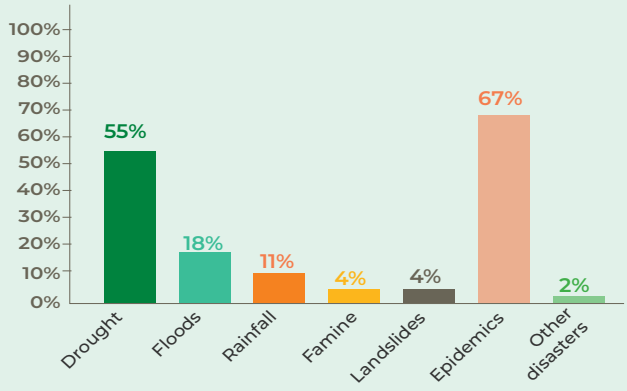
Daphine wants to be a nurse when she grows up.

Daphine with her friend Priscilla from the lake where they previously used to fetch water

Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Management

In the FY, ChildFund Uganda observed that droughts and floods have continued to have negative implications in the key program areas in East and greater Northern Uganda.

The growing disasters in Uganda among the households are presented in the graph below.



With Uganda beginning to face the problem of climate change, it is projected that about half of the country's districts are likely to become drought-prone by 2035 as per the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Technical Working Group report. The CO undertook some initiatives to prevent and respond to minimize the effects of disasters.

Strengthening the Capacity of CO and LP staff in humanitarian and emergency response.

At the CO level, a staff capacity-building session on the efficacy of humanitarian response was conducted to increased knowledge and skills on emergency response.

At local partner level, the CO carried out training and orientation for 27 LACCODEF and PfCW staff focusing on the nature and the extent of disaster, coordination, and partnership in disaster management, National Disaster management policy, Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Farmer Managed Natural resources (FMNR), Climate Smart Agriculture, Early Warning System (EWS), Disaster Risk assessments and contingency planning among others. The training empowered the team with improved knowledge in disaster risk management to promote community resilience and improve the livelihood of the affected communities.

In the FY, 48 district officials that make up the disaster risk management committees from Katakwi, Serere, Amuria, and Dokolo were trained in disaster risk management and contingency planning. Subsequently, each district agreed to develop a contingency action plan to manage risks effectively within their jurisdiction.

Contribution to the design and implementation of the organization's humanitarian and emergency response plan.

- ChildFund Uganda successfully reviewed and shared with the International Office the CO's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) School Safety Program Model Development for approval.
- Under development, is the Uganda Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, which will contribute to strengthening the operationalization and linkage of ChildFund International's humanitarian interventions for the years 2021/2022 and beyond.

Strengthened coordination and reporting of humanitarian and emergency response.

The CO engaged and offered technical guidance in regular coordination meetings for Disaster and Risk Management at a national level in addition to participating in other similar groups.

ChildFund will through her prevention and emergency plan continue promoting societies whose individuals and institutions participate in valuing, protecting, and advancing the worth and rights of children.

Other Institutional Funded Projects

Improving Lives through Climate-Smart Agriculture

Over 70% of Ugandans rely on farming as their main source of livelihood. Though, more often, farmers face challenges such as low household income, food insecurity, poor farming technology, and climate change, which threaten the farmers' only source of income.

To respond to these challenges, ChildFund Uganda acquired a grant worth over 650,000 Euros from BMZ through **ChildFund Germany** to help address the challenges. Initiatives earmarked as solutions to addressing the challenges included developing climate-smart solutions, micro-enterprise development, and youth skilling in severely affected areas found in Teso and Lango sub-regions. The 3-year grant was commissioned in December 2020, and commendable success has been realized.

- **840** farmers from **4** districts (Dokolo, Amuria, Serere, and Katakwi) were trained in sustainable climate-smart agriculture.
- **712** of the trained households are applying climate-smart farming methods and as a result, they are getting bumper harvests.
- Crop harvest reports indicated an increase of **20%** yield per acreage per enterprise for the farmers despite the challenge of the early onset of drought in Lango and Teso sub-regions.
- **200** out of the **400** identified youths were taken through career guidance, counseling, and attached to training institutions and local artisans to acquire income-generating skills.
- A total of **4** districts (Katakwi, Amuria, Serere and Dokolo), and **6** sub-county disaster management committees were established and trained. All farmers were able to develop Disaster Risk Response (DRR) contingency plans.



Samuel standing in his maize and ground nuts garden in Amuria District



Samuel is reaping big after changing his negative attitude towards agriculture

Samuel and his family with the goats he bought using money acquired from selling beans.

I have always had a poor attitude towards farming and did not regard it as an activity to take seriously, said 29-year-old Samuel. The father of three said his family always relied on handouts from relatives and close friends. However, all this changed when the BMZ project was introduced in his community in January 2021.

> **The training I attended on climate-smart agriculture made me look at farming in a new light and with a new appreciation. I quickly gained hope and knew that it was time to change the life of my family,** - Samuel.

He is now one of the 935 farmers practicing environmentally friendly and disaster-resilient sustainable farming, having been trained in climate-smart agriculture. Samuel who hails from Apeduru sub-county-Amuria district belongs to "Jamila" farmers group.

He harvested 100kgs of beans from one acre from the first planting season, sold the beans, and bought one sheep and 2 goats for breeding.

"I have plowed five gardens this season, three for groundnuts and two for beans, respectively. I now rear chicken and pigs in addition to crop production. "I believe by the end of this year I will be able to collect 30 bags of groundnuts, 80 chickens, and 5 pigs estimated at UGX 5,000,000 ($1,400)," Samuel said excitedly.

With the small success that he has observed within a short time, Samuel is hopeful for a prosperous future for his family and plans to establish a grinding mill to add value to his crops and get more profit.



Children playing on a swing at Idiwa Child-Friendly Space (CFS) in Parolinya Refugee Settlement

Building Resilience and Protection Systems (BREPS)

ChildFund Uganda implemented several activities under the BREPs project funded by KOICA and ChildFund Korea. The project based in Palorinya Refugee Settlement Zone 3 aimed at improving the wellbeing of children and youth in refugee and host communities in Obongi District. Interventions were executed at the 3 Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) - Sinai, Idiwa, and Goma.

In the FY, the project targeted the strengthening of Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms (CBCPMs) to mobilize and educate communities on a wide range of child protection concerns and how they affect children's wellbeing in the respective communities, prevent and respond to GBV as well as ensuring children access CFS services. The child protection structures were engaged as focal persons for reporting child protection concerns, including physical or sexual abuse, violence, or exploitation.

The successes achieved were as a result of concerted efforts involving families, caregivers, opinion leaders (traditional and religious leaders), the refugee community leadership, local government authorities, Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), UNHCR, among other partners in the camp.

Achievements:

- A total of **145** community leaders including the refugee welfare council, selected block leaders, Police, OPM as well as district officials from Obongi district were oriented on child protection prevention and response measures based on the objectives of the BREPs project.
- A total of **60** child protection committee members and service providers were trained on prevention and response to child protection concerns, basic case management, and CP legal framework.
- Community members, both adults and children, totaling **12,246,** were reached with child protection and COVID-19 prevention and response messages in Zone **3** through community meetings, outreaches, and dialogues.
- The CP structure members sensitized over **19,484** people on the dangers of early marriages, teenage pregnancies, child labor, and conflict resolution with children to address the challenges caused by prolonged out of school stay due to COVID-19. The home-to-home visits approach was used to ensure all family members were aware of issues affecting children, and this approach enabled people to discuss, speak out, and gain insights on child protection concerns affecting children's wellbeing.

A total of 10,020 people were reached with SGBV prevention messages through community sensitization in door-to-door campaigns. In addition, 3,020 men were reached by the 55 Male Action Groups (MAGs) members who led discussions about power imbalances in homes and how it contributes to violence. An additional 2,286 women were also reached with SGBV prevention messages. The above efforts were reinforced with IEC materials that were printed and distributed to both community activists and MAGS as tools for reference while conducting community engagement interventions in their respective communities.

"There was a woman who came to us for help complaining that her husband was violent whenever he came home drunk. The man would go home, find the wife cooking, and start quarrelling demanding for food. She would tell him to wait patiently as the food got ready and the man, out of anger, would kick the food from the fire and slap her. Whenever that happened, the entire family including the children would sleep hungry. He had done it like 3 times before the woman approached the MAGs to intervene. We talked to him to reduce his alcohol intake and start practicing patience. Fortunately, he listened, and after a few days, he came and confessed to us that there was peace in his home since he stopped over drinking".

Jackson, one of the coordinators of the MAGs said





Access to child-friendly protection services

A total of 797 children were registered and engaged in different structured and non-structured activities conducted in the three ChildFund supported Child Friendly Spaces (Idiwa, Sinai and Goma) in Zone 3 Palorinya Refugee Settlement. Activities included sports, storytelling, music, dance and drama. drama. These were provided as a gateway to offer psychosocial support, as well as foster social connections and interactions amongst children.

CFS facilitators together with CPCs conducted visits to children play centers, homes, water points and playgrounds in the villages and blocks to facilitate engagement with children that don't make it to the centers.

Though the outreaches, **3,621** children were reached through outreach activities like storytelling, music dance and drama, games, and sports. 7 cases of violence against children, mostly on abuse and teenage pregnancy, were identified, registered and referred to Medical Teams International for care and support, while others were referred to Transcultural Psychosocial Organization for psychosocial support services.



Child-Friendly Centers keeping children engaged in Parolinya Refugee settlement

Agnes, 34, is one of the parents' ambassadors and a member of a Child Protection Committee for her village within Parolinya Refugee settlement. She was selected to represent her peers in the committee that was formed with ChildFund's support. "I share information with different leaders within the village and the wider community on Child Protection risks, effective parenting, supporting children with different needs and about different activities that ChildFund organizes for children in the community and the CFS." Explained Agnes.

She said that during the community outreaches, CFS facilitators go to the community with play materials for children to use during the engagement.



"Some children are orphans, unattended, and keep to themselves because they find it hard to associate with other children. However, during the community events, they have an opportunity to associate with other children and be active. This also prevents them from getting involved in bad behavior like stealing or abusing drugs." *Agnes said.*

She also added that through community outreaches, children who stay far from the CFS are reached but those who stay close to the center can access the services all the time. The Child-Friendly Centers keep children not only entertained but also teach them new skills, Agnes said adding that the centers have been more instrumental during this COVID-19 period when children have not been going to school.

Engagement with parents and caregivers for positive parenting.

Using the Sinovuyo model of parenting, positive parenting sessions were conducted within villages surrounding the three CFS. Over 269 parents and caregivers participated in these sessions where they received knowledge and skills on how to provide responsive and protective care to their infants and young children. Parenting sessions included meeting with a group of parents and caregivers of children aged between 0 to 8 years in each of the three CFSs.

Promoting life skills and Sexual Reproductive Health among youth



A group of youth who are also members of the CRCs that ChildFund runs in Parolinya.

To enhance the capacity of adolescents and youth to make informed choices in life, 30 peer educators were trained on life skills and sexual reproductive health and were enrolled to go out into communities and interact with their peers through community learning sessions.

Over **5,152** adolescents and youth were reached with ASRH messages that address issues that affect their wellbeing. Peer educators conducted peer learning sessions in conjunction with health workers who dealt with clinical youth-friendly services provided in the different health facilities within the Zone, as well as counseling youth and adolescents. Over **150** youth were counseled and referred for further management.

Lessons Learned

- Coordination and reflection meetings are very key because they create a platform for different child protection committee members to come together and learn from each other. It also increases community connection and linkage with child protection structures and better reflection on what works well, and what does not based on experiences.
- Working through existing structures or services such as schools, youth clubs, health facilities or communities provides an easy platform to reach out to communities with messages that promote children's wellbeing.
- It is important to encourage and strengthen community-based programs for self-help and reinforce people's natural resilience. This is a very effective way of creating more protective environments for children.
- Appreciation and recognition that GBV prevention and response is a collective effort for stakeholders in their respective jurisdictions. This brings about clarity on the different roles of different community structures and the importance of collaboration in GBV prevention and response.
- With the involvement and efforts of all partners, OPM, and UNHCR in the review of the existing SGBV and standard operating procedures, comprehensive documents are expected to guide implementation of SGBV prevention and response in Palorinya Refugee Settlement.

SPONSORSHIP

ChildFund Uganda runs a vibrant sponsorship program under ChildFund International with 29,734 enrolled children, out of which 23,531 were sponsored, as of June 30, 2021. Most of the sponsors are from the US, followed by Australia, Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand, and France.

Through sponsorship funds, the CO was able to implement programs in early childhood development, child protection, education, health and nutrition, food security, WASH, household economic strengthening, and emergency response. We are grateful to our donors for their support in reaching the deprived, vulnerable, and excluded communities in Uganda.



Sponsorship changed Latifu's family fortune



Latifu carrying a trough of water from the new house to help his mother with washing utensils.

Nine-year-old Latifu beams with joy as he talks about having his bed with a mattress to himself after sleeping on the floor with his 6 siblings in a one-roomed grass-thatched house for many years.

Latifu's fortune and that of his family changed in 2016 when he got a sponsor, Helen Bennett. She started sending him DFC (Designated Fund Certificates) and with guidance from ChildFund staff about proper spending, Latifu's wellbeing and that of his entire family improved. Naigaga, his mother, who is also the household head, opened a savings account for Latifu in a village saving group and started keeping at least UGX 40,000 ($11) monthly.

Naigaga used the savings to construct a four-roomed permanent house. As soon as the new house was habitable, the family moved from the old one whose door was broken to the bigger and more spacious house where the children can sleep more comfortably. Initially, the family survived on farming on half an acre piece of land and struggled to access basic needs. The family occasionally practiced bricklaying which is seasonal and mostly pays during the harvest period when people have money to buy the bricks. Their old room doubled as a store for domestic items and a bedroom for children and their mother. With children sleeping on the floor, they were exposed to illnesses such as skin infections and rashes, flu, and cough. However, all this is in the past and the family is enjoying a better life.

They bought two cows, and both have produced making a total of four cows that provide milk daily. They get 6 liters of milk, and this earns them UGX 4,200 ($1) daily. Out of milk sales, they earn UGX 112,000 (over $1) per month.

Latifu and his family have milk to drink, and the leftover is sold to afford other necessities like food, soap and kerosene for lighting at night.

"My children used to feed on sugarcane and leftovers from neighbors. Taking milk and having 2 meals a day was a dream for us. We are now better than before despite the COVID-19 lockdown. May God bless Helen our friend and ChildFund," narrated Latifu's mother.

She plans to use the savings and more DFC gifts to acquire 3 acres of land for grazing animals and food production as they work on the completion of the house.



Latifu, his mother and sister with the cows got from DFC gifts

The adventures of the Magic Application



Skylar from Kampala making a drawing through the application

ChildFund Uganda through its sponsorship unit piloted an initiative by the International Office to have child communications managed digitally using an application called the ***Magic Adventure App.*** This pilot was implemented in one community each by three LPs - LACCODEF in the Adita community, MAFOC in the Busiu community, and KAFOC in the Bbiina community.

ChildFund believes that effective sponsorship communications are a powerful tool for establishing links between children, and their sponsors, building friendships of respect and mutual understanding of culture, diversity, and contexts.

The intention of introducing the Magic Adventure App was to create an opportunity for the children to tell their stories to their sponsors through drawing, pictures, and text.

They can share stories about their development milestones, changes in behaviors, practices, and knowledge they have acquired through ChildFund's programs.

This innovation has shifted child-sponsor communication from analogue to digital technology-enabled communications.

Most children would receive correspondences, but due to factors like lack of pens, papers, colours, paper clips, there was usually a delay in response. Taking a photo was only possible when required or requested by the sponsor but printing was also hectic. Many of children's communications could be edited, and letters generated many corrections making neatness hard to achieve. Transporting letters from the field to CO for delivery also caused a delay. The Magic Adventure App halved some of these challenges.

The use of the app motivated children to write to sponsors because they can now touch and use tablets by themselves. This excites many, as some young ones call them (tablets) computers.

Through the app, children have learnt typing skills since it requires them to navigate through the tab, as they type, edit, take photographs, and draw on the tablet, they gradually master the skills.

During the pilot period stretching from November 2020 to June 2021, a total of **1,943** communications were managed through the app.

This mode of communication has also been an adventure that children thoroughly enjoy and has brought an interesting dynamic to managing correspondences.

PARTNERSHIPS

The CO continues to strengthen and leverage existing partnerships as the work to seek, establish more mutually beneficial relationships continues. The following was carried out in the FY;

Partner assessments conducted

The CO conducted the annual partner assessment for all 9 partners in March 2021. All assessment results indicated that all the 9 local partners are effective. Performance gaps were noted in the areas of rate of implementation of annual plans and spending according to life stage allocations. This was largely attributed to the COVID-19 control restrictions which limited program delivery. The other cross-cutting capacity gap was in attracting additional funding from outside ChildFund which has been a chronic challenge to all the local partners. The CO will work with IPs to generate action plans to address the gaps going forward.

Meeting between CO, SMT, and local partner boards and management

In March 2021, the CO, Senior Management Team (SMT) held a meeting with the 9 local partner boards and management teams. Topics discussed include, compliance reflections, LP legal statuses, fraud, workflows during the COVID-19 period, challenges and opportunities brought about by COVID-19, and action points for the way forward.

The key action was the need to support the LP identify a legal firm to help them address the legal and governance gaps identified in FY 20. This is to ensure they reduce governance and legal risks in their operations.

Engagement with humanitarian partners

The CO engaged key stakeholders and potential partners. This included visits to the heads of UNHCR sub-offices; settlement commanders from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in Adjumani and Moyo districts, as well as the Team Leader of Lutheran World Foundation in Adjumani. District. The partners visited also implement programs on child protection, education, life-saving measures, integration of refugees into government programs, WASH, livelihood building, COVID-19 response, systems strengthening, and legislative issues with government, among others. The fact that these are in line with the ChildFund program offers, presents a good opportunity for collaboration and partnership.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening its partnerships with all relevant stakeholders in the development process for the implementation of the "Growing Connection 2030" Agenda and implementation of the Country Strategic Plan is ChildFund Uganda's key priority. The Country Program is currently engaging a wide range of organizations including private sector, foundations, nongovernmental organizations including research centers as relevant to this mission. The plan aims at guiding efforts toward a ChildFund Uganda with wide engagement with partners and facilitating cross-sectoral engagement as well as the implementation of the Country Strategic Plan. As such there are ongoing engagements with Government Institutions like the Office of the Prime Minister - with which we have already a working MOU, relevant Ministries like Ministry of Education and Sports, National Curriculum Development Center, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development where various technical staff actively participate in relevant sector working groups that affect our work. In addition, ChildFund Uganda has ongoing discussion with CSOs like War Child Holland at International Office with whom a framework agreement has been signed, private sector engagements including Davis & Shirtliff; Longhorn publishers and LEGO Foundation who we anticipate collaborative initiatives to leverage on both technical and financial resources should the discussions yield into a framework agreements.

Strategic Engagements:

ChildFund Fundraising Strategy sets out to reach out more actively to the private sector, the European Commission, UN agencies, Financial Institutions, Foundations, Embassies/High Commissions, Business Entities, and other Institutional Donors to widen the donor base, diversify funding and decrease current dependency on a few donors. ChildFund Uganda is currently receiving funds from Alliances Members, BMZ, EU and P&G and Oak Foundation and is underway to signing a new contract agreement with Nutrition International Canada. The task for ChildFund Uganda is to build further trust with existing donors to ensure that current donors maintain or even increase the level of funding. The CO is also to working on consolidating existing partnerships towards multi-donor initiatives.



ASSURANCE

We have turned the page on another year with confidence after numerous audit engagements in the FY. The Country Office and our network of 9 LPs who implement the bulk of our programs all turned in clean audit reports signifying a high level of investment for over a decade to mitigate risk in our work.

Every year, the CO and LPs undergo several audits engagements, this FY we conducted the following:

- Annual statutory audits where we have had an unqualified opinion for 10 years and counting.
- Rigorous donor-driven audits that have not turned in disallowed expenses and return of funds to donors.
- Internal audits prioritized by level of risk.

This success can be attributed to the building of a culture that ensures we have the required discipline for the right and evolving internal control system. ChildFund has been able to maintain its integrity because the staff that make decisions every passing minute of their wake are committed and exhibit high levels of accountability and proactiveness with a focus on the organization's vision and mission.

The maturity of the system pays off that way.

The Enterprise Risk Management models (training, evolving/adaptive internal control systems, we have deployed over time have supported the organization to have true advocacy of risk mitigation for the realization of our vision and mission in key corners and the middle spaces.

The next phase of this journey will be to:

- Support our staff to remain strong, focused and motivated to the values we espouse despite the complacent community next door.
- Enhancing our systems to ensure the highest possible value for money.
- Going out to win the trust of the right vendors while outpacing the shrewd and dishonest ones.
- Keeping the right vendors for the long run.
- Identifying more controls that aid a high level of, accuracy, speed, and motivation to key players.
- Getting it right in the market whereby we can conduct business without the feeling of being ripped off by anyone.



HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION

ChildFund Uganda employs highly engaged technical staff led by the Country Director with support from the Program & Sponsorship Director, Human Resource and Administration Manager, Finance Director, and Global Auditor together with technical specialists among others.

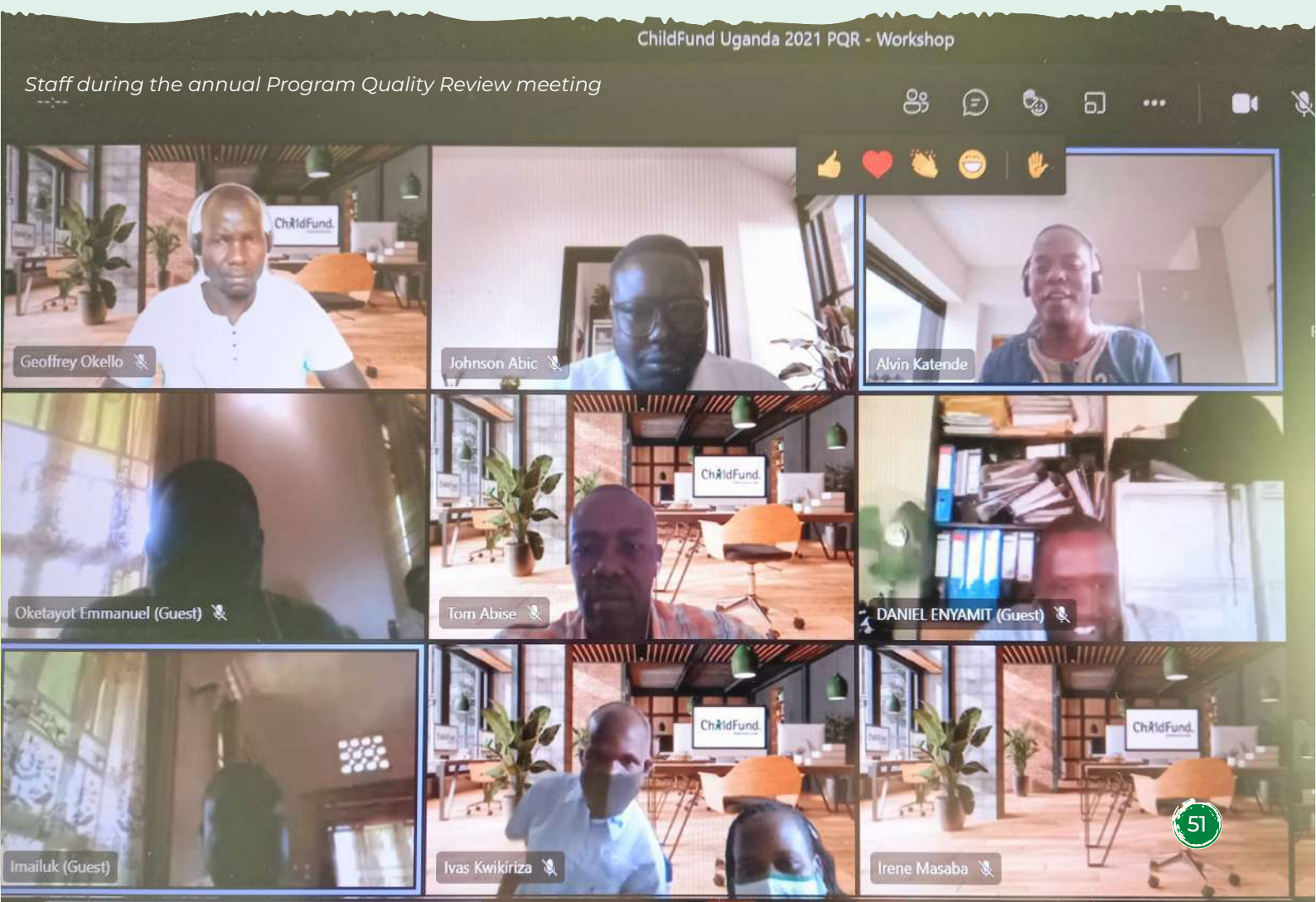
ChildFund has continued to implement strategies that enhance and design an experience that creates an innovative culture where staff are passionate about their work and protecting children.

In 2021, Global Human Resources streamlined processes, and encouraged the use of technology by eliminating forms, automating manual processes in the "We Connect system" whereby staff were able to have a successful performance management system that eased the evaluations.

Additionally, the E-Procurement system was launched to streamline processes as well, by eliminating forms and automating the manual processes.

COVID-19 response support to staff was given through talks organized for staff, and as a result, staff have increasingly taken up vaccination as a preventive measure.

During the same period, the joint staff-management "Respectful Workplace Initiative", which promotes a respectful workplace that encourages trust, responsibility, accountability, and mutual respect was implemented. It also encourages open communication and embraces the dignity and diversity of individuals, "values in action". Training has been offered to aid decision-making based on shared values and transparent communication.



Staff during the annual Program Quality Review meeting

COMMUNICATIONS

In FY21, the communications unit focused on increasing ChildFund's visibility among other activities. With support and collaboration with several mainstream media and social media engagements the organization received extensive coverage. Some of the stories are listed below:

Teachers should meet social-emotional needs of learners. https://www.newvision.co.ug/articledetails/88859

Ensuring child safety in public transportation: https://observer.ug/viewpoint/68326-ensuring-child-safety-in-public-transportation

ChildFund, CECE move to address challenges of access to clean water in Kyankwanzi district: https://eagle.co.ug/2021/03/23/childfund-cece-move-to-address-challenges-of-water-scarcity-in-kyankwanzi-district.html https://edge.ug/index.php/2021/03/24/protect-environment-to-fight-water-scarcity-kyankwanzi-rdc/

NBS Television: Kyankwanzi Water Situation: 00:4:04 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZUAyTTxvLc



Working with men and boys to fight GBV https://web.monitor.co.ug/Supplement/2021/03/childfund10102021.pdf

Safeguard the girl child from defilement https://ugandanweekly.com/safeguard-the-girl-child-from-defilement/

Prioritize basics for women's emancipation: https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/commentary/prioritise-basics-for-women-s-emancipation--3346520

Deal with violence against children: https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/commentary/deal-with-violence-against-children-3368932

Parents Urged To Guard Children Against Abuse Amid COVID-19 https://smlnews.ug/2021/06/10/parents-urged-to-guard-children-against-abuse-amid-COVID-19/

ChildFund empowers Kitgum kids to fight for their rights: https://edge.ug/index.php/2021/06/12/childfund-empowers-kitgum-kids-to-fight-for-their-rights/

Know the signs and forms of child abuse: https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/letters/know-the-signs-and-forms-of-child-abuse--3441566

NTV: Empowering communities to protect children. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzQPYg_EG6U

Establish protection mechanisms for refugee children. https://www.newvision.co.ug/articledetails/106776


ChildFund Uganda

Working with men and boys to fight GBV

A cross section of community members during a meeting

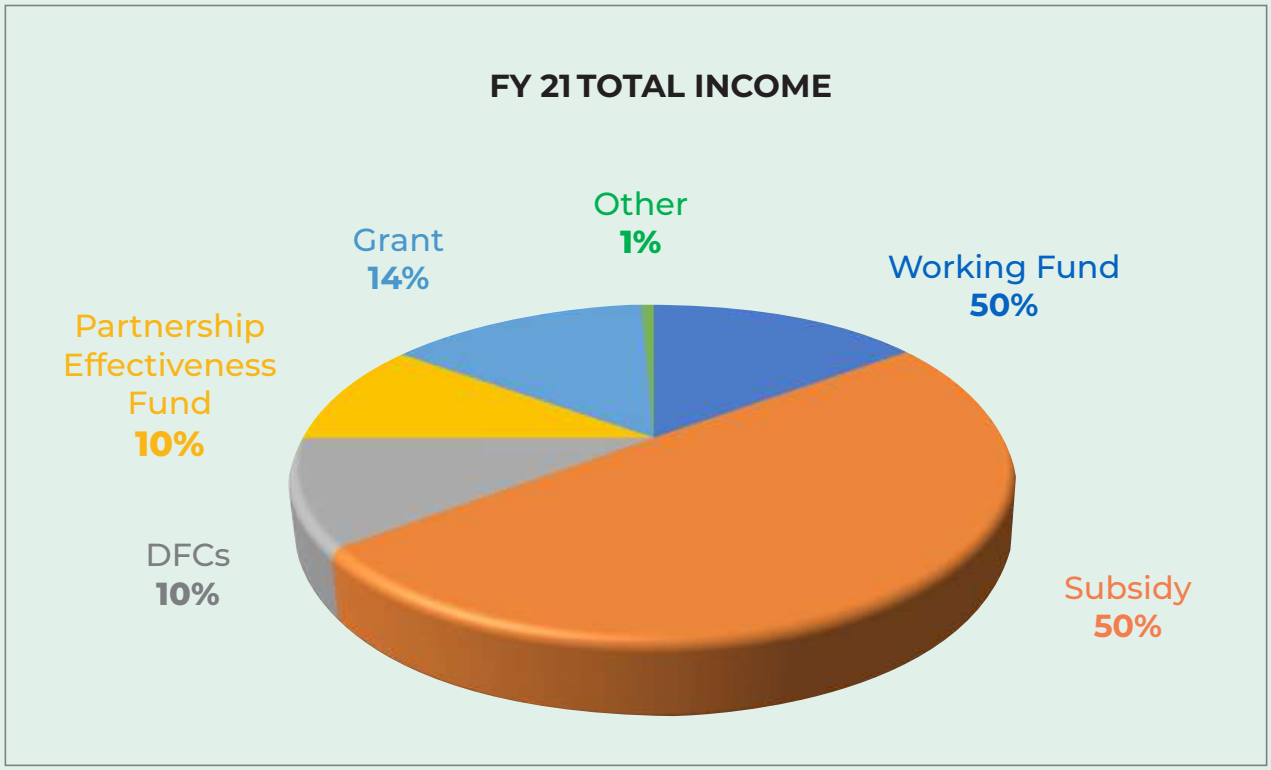

Strengthen linkages in child protection

MOSES OTAI

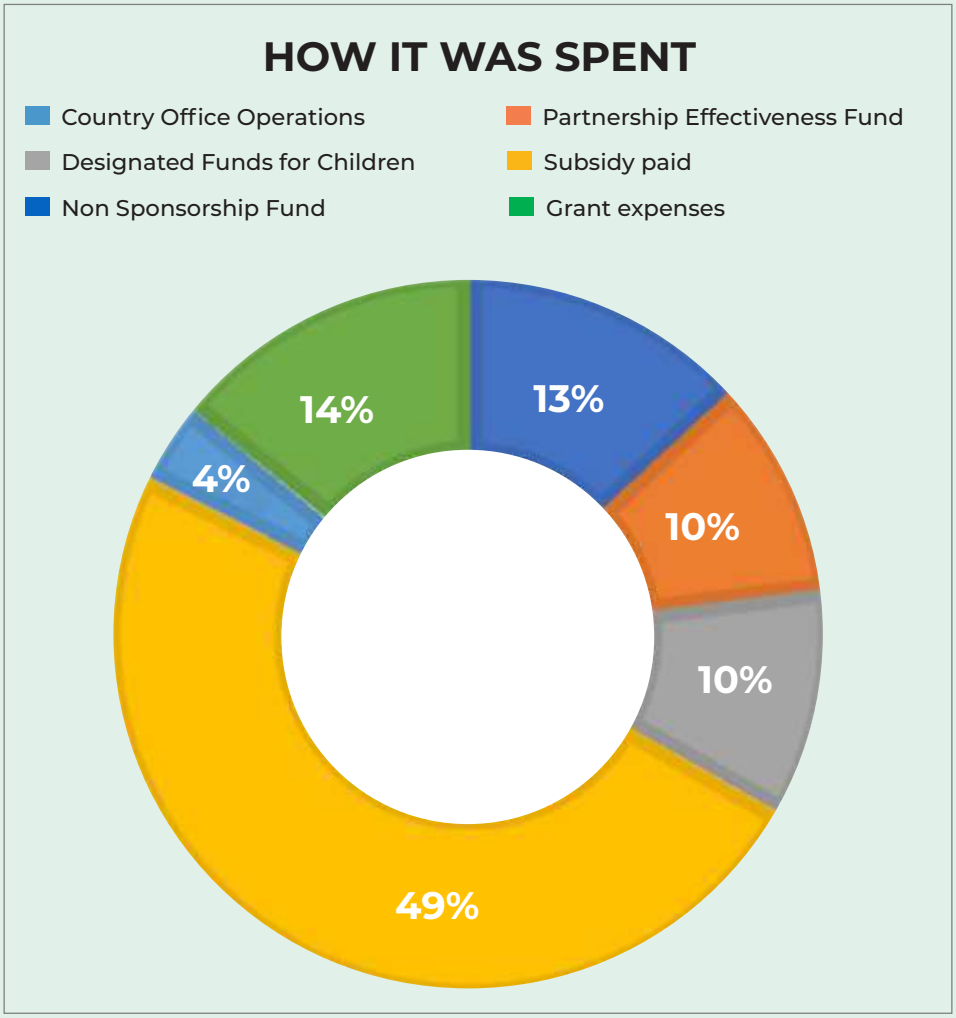
There is need to build a co-ordinated and response capacity for both prevention and response mechanisms from national level down to the villages.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and advocates of ChildFund Uganda, we were able to record a growth of 8% in income from FY 20 to a total income of USD 6.329 million an equivalent of UGX 23,415,361 billion that facilitated our work in FY 21.



TOTAL INCOME IN MILLIONS OF USD	
Subsidy	3.151
Working Fund	0.942
Grants	0.912
DFCs	0.652
Partnership Effectiveness Fund	0.630
Other	0.042
TOTAL INCOME	**6.329**



TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN USD	
Country Office Operations	0.824
Partnership Effectiveness Fund (PEF)	0.630
Designated Fund for Children	0.651
Subsidy paid	3.103
Non-sponsorship programs (NSP) expenses	0.225
Grant expenses	0.895
TOTAL	**6.329**

DONORS

ChildFund Uganda is extremely grateful to all the sponsors and donors for making all the activities done in the FY possible. We appreciate your generosity, encouragement, and commitment to walking this journey with us. Your support and commitment enables us to extend resources to children to grow up healthy, educated, skilled and safe, wherever they are.

BMZ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

P&G Procter&Gamble

Standard Chartered

ChildFund Korea

barnfonden Member of ChildFund Alliance

KOICA Korea International Cooperation Agency





ChildFund
Uganda

Plot 71/72 Namirembe Road I P. O . Box 3341, Kampala, Uganda
256-414 345 353 +256 393 260 069/70
ChildFund Uganda @ChildFundUganda www.childfund.org