



Walking Children to a Bright Future



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2022 – JUNE 2023

ACRONYMS

ASP - Area Strategic Plan

CBCPM-Community Based Child Protection Mechanism

CDF-Community Development Facilitator

CM-Community Mobilizer

CSO-Civil Society Organisation

CVS – Child Verification System

CYA-Children and Young Adolescents

CYEC - Children Youth Executive Committee

DFC-Designated Fund Certificate

DRR- Disaster Risk Reduction

ECD – Early childhood development

FY-Financial Year

HC – Health Centre

IEC: Information Education and Communication

JIACOFE – Jinja Area Communities Federation

LC-Local Councils

M&E- Monitoring and evaluation

MOMO-Mobile Money

NGO-Non-Governmental Organisation

PDD-Project Design Documents

PEC – Parent Executive committee

RAMs – Re-Assignment Material

SR - Sponsor Relations

TOT-Trainer of Trainees

VHTs-Village Health Teams

VSLA-Village Savings and Loans Association

MESSAGES FROM MANAGER

On behalf of the Children, Youth and Parents of Jinja Area Communities Federation, I wish to present a quarterly report for the period July 2022 -June 2023.

Numerous achievements have been registered under different programs through funding mainly from ChildFund International. We are most grateful to our partners, the political and technical heads of Mayuge, Kamuli and Jinja districts not forgetting implementing partners and all those who have extended support that has enabled us to register these commendable achievements amidst COVID-19 pandemic.

With funds from ChildFund International, JIACOFE has been able to deliver programs to supported children and their families under the four COVID 19 emergency response objectives of Stopping COVID-19 from infecting children and families, ensuring that children get food they need, keeping children safe from Violence: Physically and emotionally and Helping children continue to do their job: Learning.

This has increased awareness on COVID 19 preventive measures, coping skills as well as access necessities by the children, youth, and parents in the operation area.

As suggested by the Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives of the organization laid out in this report, there is still a resource constraint to enable implementation of the planned activities in line with the persistent faces of child poverty, increasing COVID-19 infections and the capacity gaps identified among the different structures at the Federation and community levels. The resource base of the organization is still narrow. I do therefore call upon Donor Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to support us materially, financially, morally, and otherwise to achieve our objectives.

Lastly, I wish to record my appreciation to ChildFund International, JIACOFE staff, structures, Children, Youth, and the Parents in Jinja Area, District political and technical personnel and all other stakeholders who have contributed in one way or another towards implementation of the activities outlined in this report.

Stay safe.

Yours



HENRY BAZIBU

PROGRAM MANAGER

JIACOFE

Broad Outline of Key Achievements not exceeding one page

54 Destitute households supported with cash transfer
448 individual caregivers and youths provided with micro- grants for individual business
72 Caregivers groups trained on VSLA asocial approach and financial literacy
05 ECD caregivers trained on IECD caregiving knowledge
18 Female ECD teachers supported to manage ECD centres
05 ECD centres supported to acquire operational licenses
12 quarterly subcounty child welfare committee meetings conducted
18 Dialogues sessions held between informal and formal system of CP
01 District level CBCPM stakeholder meetings conducted
60 VAC cases identified and followed up
46 Referral of critical health cases for medical attention facilitated
46 awareness campaigns on child education conducted
02 Child advocacy events conducted
1009 children supported with early grade readers
72 Holiday early grade reading sessions conducted
1565 youths reached with counselling and guidance on career choices
51 youths linked to vocational and other tertiary institution for skilling
60 vocational skills trained youth provided start up tools
6 community voice now groups supported to implement Youth VN initiatives in communities
91 peer educators trained on MOH ASRHR curriculum
650 girls supported with Re-usable sanitary Pads
03 community skilling centres equipped with tools to provide vocational skill training to out of school youth
12 integrated peer educator community meeting conducted
36 CMs facilitated to do SR and program work
858 Children provided with DFC
6 staff trained on file digitalisation, 3 staff oriented on key sponsorship indicators, 13 Staff trained on digitalized Child Enrolment and parent consent forms.
3 SR quarterly reflection meeting conducted
13 Staff trained on digital magic adventure application and child communication,
6385 Photos for sponsored children sent to their sponsors
3129 Children/families visited for SR and program related support

INTRODUCTION

Jinja Area Communities Federation (JIACOFE) is an umbrella association of Children, Youths and Parents who work for the development of the children and communities with an aim of facilitating communities to take a leading role in fighting against child poverty in Busoga Sub region.

JIACOFE started operation in 2003 with support from Christian Children’s Fund Inc – Uganda now called ChildFund International. JIACOFE operates in the following communities: Wanyange, and Buwenge (in Jinja District), Imanyiro, & Buwaaya (in Mayuge), Kamuli and Buwuda (in Kamuli District).

OUR PROGRAM APPROACH:

Programs are planned and implemented following a 5-year strategic planning cycle which is evaluated after a very five years.

JIACOFE programs are implemented according to life stage programming and theory of Change.

CORE PROGRAM AREAS (CPAs):

- Health, Water, and sanitation
- Early childhood development
- Basic Education
- Household economic strengthening
- Child protection
- Youth empowerment

BUDGET VARIANCE ANALYSIS (UGSH ‘000)

A) Life Stages	Annual Budget Current FY (A)	Cumulative Annual Expenditure To date (B)	Burn Rate on Annual Budget (E) E=B/A*100%
<i>Life Stage 1¹</i>	77,012	85,659	111%
<i>Life Stage 2²</i>	387,221	370,013	96%
<i>Life Stage 3³</i>	339,083	323,453	95%
<i>Capacity Building</i>	248,949	247,675	99%
<i>Sponsorship</i>	109,719	111,163	101%
<i>Community Contribution</i>	9,000	228	3%
Total	1,170,984	1,138,194	97%

Sources:

¹ Life Stage 1 focuses on children 0-5 years and their caregivers, siblings.

² Life Stage 2 focuses on children 6-14 years and their caregivers, siblings.

³ Life Stage 3 focuses on youths 15-24 years of age, caregivers, siblings.

Sources: Annual Operation Plans, Budgets, and financial system

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANTS SERVED

Age Group	Adults or older	Girls			Boys			Total Counts
		0-5 years	6-14 years	15-24 years	0-5 years	6-14 years	15-24 years	
<i>Grants / NSPs / Emergencies</i>	16			576				477
<i>Community wide; (non-enrolled families / children)</i>	1731	798	2311	1805	700	1038	706	9089
<i>Enrolled Children</i>	0	195	1099	876	183	1027	766	4146
<i>Siblings of Enrolled Children</i>	0	390	2198	1752	366	2054	1532	8292
<i>Parents / Guardians / Caregivers of enrolled children</i>	4146							4146
<i>Government staff / structures</i>	101							101
<i>Partner Affiliate Staff and structures</i>	27							27
<i>Sub Total by Gender and Life Stage</i>	6021	5391	10810	3842	1585	12028	4281	26278

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

Caregiver Empowerment Initiatives

448 (240M, 208F) caregivers and youth micro enterprises in Buwenge, Buwaaya, Kamuli and Imanyiro and Buwuda communities were supported with micro grants to revamp their businesses. The support helped the businesses to recover from the shock caused by Covid19 by expanding their stock and caregivers are now able to meet their children and household needs.

Entrepreneurship and Business Development Initiatives

6 VSLA agents and 12 staff (14M, 5F) across the 6 communities were trained on VSLA Associates model, financial literacy, and selection, planning and management of business enterprises. These applied the skills and knowledge attained to mentor VSLA groups on collective enterprise selection, investment, value addition, saving and loan management, documentation, and group policies. As a result, 72VSLA groups with 1751 members (449 M, 1,302 F) improved their constitutions guiding them on savings, credit, and registration. The groups registered with their respective district/sub-counties. Continuous mentorship and encouragement are ongoing to support the groups explore the possibility of benefiting from government programs as well as starting group enterprises. undergoing orientation on business management by the subcounty teams before they receive funds. So far 2 groups from Buwaaya communities received Parish community association money from their subcounty.

Also, 20 groups comprising 500 (115M, 385F) were supported with saving kits to promote group saving and loan management within the groups. This has ensured group compliance to the VSLA associate model, proper record management and documentation.

Early Childhood Development (ECD)

To ensure compliance to government IECD standards, 5 community ECD centers of Buwaaya, Buwenge, Buwuda, Kamuli and Imanyiro were supported to acquire operational license for 2 years as they prepare to apply for registration. So far, all the five ECD centers secured operational licenses allowing them to operate ECD centers. This has improved the quality of services at the centers.

Relatedly, 5 ECD teachers (all female) of community centres continued with in service training on ECD at Bishop Willis core PTC in Iganga. The teachers completed their training and the skills attained in scheming, lesson planning, preparing daily routines and developing child friendly learning aids are being applied and have enhanced quality of services rendered to children at the respective ECD centres.

Support Transition Management

18 Female caregivers (teachers) across the 5 communities received monthly stipend to teach at the ECD centers. Teachers are now engaging 468 (229M, 239 F) children in age-appropriate activities which have boosted the socialization and cognitive development of children. The children now freely participate in age-appropriate activities both at school, home and relate with other with ease. This will strengthen their transition to primary section.

Child Protection

18 dialogue sessions between formal and informal child protection system were conducted across the six supported communities. The meetings brought together community stakeholders who noted escalating child abuse cases especially drug abuse, child labour, school dropouts, defilement, and child neglect. Consequently, 60 VAC cases were identified and profiled for follow up by the child wellbeing committees at the respective subcounty. This has strengthened community vigilance in case identification, reporting and case follow up.

JIACOFE worked with 6 sub county child wellbeing committees and followed up 60 (30 M, 30 F) VAC cases (08 teenage pregnancies/defilement, 10 out of school, 23 child labour cases,

drug abuse 10 and 1 case of child battering) across the 6 communities. As a result, 8 teenage pregnant girls were referred and are accessing ANC/PNC services from the nearby health centres. 10 out of school youth enrolled for skilling. Also, 23 children engaged in child labour received scholastic material and reported back to school. 8 defilement cases were reported at police, defiler prosecuted meanwhile the female victims were supported to access health screening from the health facilities. 10 cases of drug abuse were followed and counselled together with their caregivers with continued follow up. Lastly the case of child battering by the stepmother the child was reunited with her mother in Kaliro.

‘...Every academic term, I was rated last. I lost interest in formal education and dropped out of school thinking it was my destiny. The guidance on alternative education by JIACOFE staff was an eye opener that restored my hope for a bright future. I’m now training in motorcycle mechanics with a plan of setting up my own garage after the course...’ Ronald, a youth from Buwenge remarked.

The SOVCCs members, staff and VHTs are continuously extending psychosocial support to the victims and their families. Plans are under way to enrol more girls for skills development at community centres under artisan model next financial year.

In addition, 2806 (1222 M, 1584 F) and 406 (176M, 230F) children from Kamuli and Mayuge and Jinja districts participated in the commemoration of the Day of the African child and the universal day of children. In all the districts, key advocacy messages were on positive parenting, career guidance and counselling, strengthening community system to identify and address cases of school dropouts, teenage pregnancies, access to ASRH services and parental neglect. Duty bearers committed to follow up the cases to further understand the underlying factors to inform appropriate action.

3 district child protection stakeholder meeting comprising 77 (35F, 42M) were conducted across the three districts of Mayuge, Kamuli municipality and Jinja respectively. The meetings discussed critical bottlenecks in community-based child protection which included: limited follow up on identified and reported cases by the duty bearers; commercialization of child protection work; limited knowledge on child policy among community members and duty bearers engaged in sugarcane growing compromise community efforts to address the vice. As a result, the meetings recommended that parish community child protection committees comprising VHTS, LCs, para social workers, opinion leaders, and youth be empowered to trigger community mobilization, sensitization, identification and follow up on child protection cases in the parish. Consequently 6 parish community child protection structures across the six communities were strengthened to pilot the parish child protection model approach.

Support Literacy and Numeracy Development

1009 (430 male and 579 female) school going children of primary 1,2,3 and 4 were supported with early grade readers to enhance their literacy development skills. The pupils will use these books to practice reading with guidance from class teachers and peers around their home. As such their reading confidence and proficiency will be enhanced.

46 awareness campaign session comprising 3598 (1344M, 2254F) on the value of education were conducted across the six. The session disused skills of effective child supervision, communication, setting clear family values and expectation. The sessions amplified the roles

and responsibilities of caregivers/families in nurturing positive personal and family values in children. Consequently, parents parenting skills were enhanced.

Similarly, 72 community early grade reading holiday sessions for 3197 (1540M, 1657) children in grade 1 - 4 were conducted in Buwaaya, Buwenge, Buwuda, Kamuli Imanyiro and Wanyange communities. 24 skilled teachers in early grade guided children to engage in basic early grade reading activities guided by the early grade reading curriculum and the phonetic awareness principles. This has improved the reading abilities of participating children and consequently improving their grades in class. Over time, this will enhance their confidence and love for reading which are critical in ensuring school completion and retention. *'...pronouncing a word in class was hard for me, I used to spend minutes to read a word on black board and was laughed at in class, am now fluent and can read well,* Patience from Buwenge community testified.

Youth-Livelihood, Sexual Reproductive Health, and life skills

In partnership with successful community-based entrepreneurs, 1565 (688M, 877F) youth across the six supported communities were reached with counselling and guidance on skilling in agribusiness, bakery, building and construction, life skills and general vocational skills. Youth were supported to evaluate their aptitudes, capabilities, and unique interests. They were further familiarized with different types of skill set, their educational and skill requirements and the prospects for career long term growth. The youth were inspired to draw career plans, mapping out career path with specific objectives reflecting on advantages and disadvantages. The guidance helped youth to make informed decision when applying for vocational courses. *"All along I thought learning is just to get a degree, Counselling has shaped my thinking, I have right away got my career goal, says Esther from Kamuli.*

132 (47M, 85F) out of school youths enrolled for skills training in hair dressing, tailoring and motorcycle mechanics at the community centres of Buwenge, Buwaaya and Imanyiro under the artisan model. The training gave youths new perspective on their lives and hopes for the future. Voices from caregivers indicate that the intervention has reduced on youth redundancy and engagement in risky behaviours as most of them are now engaged in studies.

61 (39 M, 22 F) youths were supported with tuition to enable them to continue with formal skills training at various vocational schools/colleges. This was in response to the effect of Covid19 on household businesses which stagnated household incomes to the extent that they could not afford tuition for their children to complete training.

65 (18 M, 47 F) youth from Buwaaya, Imanyiro and Buwenge communities received start-up tools for hair dressing, tailoring, motorcycle repair. The youth are now practicing their trades and earning an average monthly income of UGX 70,000 for a living.

Promote Sexual Reproductive Health

91 (53M, 38F) peer educators, health workers and staff were trained on adolescent sexual reproductive health rights and services. The training centered on empowering peer educators with information about ASRH issues, commodities, and services, national ASRHR service delivery strategies and skills needed by peers to effectively engage with other peers. The acquired skills and knowledge will be a pivot upon which future peer education engagement and service delivery will be premised for effectiveness and efficiency.

6 joint health workers peer educator reflection meetings comprising 777 (450F, 327M) were conducted across the six communities of Buwaaya, Imanyiro, Wanyange, Buwenge, Buwuda and Kamuli. The health workers provided information on management of STD/STIs, Dangers of drug abuse, family planning services, available ASRH services and commodities at the health facilities. consequently 123 youth tested for HIV, 42 received family planning services and 90 received condoms. Reports from the health facilities and peer educators show an increase in the uptake of ASRH commodities across communities especially condoms and family planning services.

Family visitation

Home visits were conducted to 4146 enrolled families to verify the physical presence of the children, education, and health status. Family dialogues focused on COVID 19 preventive measures, positive parenting, child protection, family income, food security and sanitation improvement to ensure child wellbeing were done. Referral pathways were shared with children and their caregivers for appropriate management of health issues.

Key challenges

- Teenage pregnancies and early marriages because of children staying long out of school due to Covid19. CBCPM interventions were strengthened to reduce on the increasing child abuse cases.
- Limited funding vis a vis overwhelming community needs and expectations.

Action plans

Participatory quarterly quality program review (involving different structures) for continuous improvement of program delivery for impact.

Step up resource mobilization for increased funding to address escalating children and youth challenges during and post Covid19 pandemic situation.