



Walking Children to a Bright Future



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2021 – JUNE 2022

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 2021 -June 2022.

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

MANAGER

JIACOFE

Broad Outline of Key Achievements

54 Destitute households supported with cash transfer
364 individual caregivers and youths provided with micro- grants for individual business
5 caregivers and youths groups provided micro-grants
4143 HHs reached with Covid19 prevention messages
90 Caregivers groups trained in MEDI
09 ECD caregivers trained on IECD caregiving knowledge
17 Female ECD teachers supported to manage ECD centers
02 ECD centers renovated
64 Dialogues sessions held between informal and formal system of CP
18 District level CBCPM stakeholder meetings conducted
114 VAC cases identified and followed up
34 Referral of critical health cases for medical attention facilitated
18 Quarterly VHT community reflection meetings
60 VHTs provided PPE materials
02 Child advocacy events conducted
16 Schools supported with (134) COVID19 IEC materials and (64) hand washing soap
1677 Covid19 IEC materials distributed
1307 Instruction and learning materials printed
187 Youths trained on vocational skills (any type), 60 provided start up tools
90 Youth participating in VN initiatives
03 Resource centers supported to provide vocational skill training
09 Community artisans facilitated to mentor youth on vocational skills
273 Number of youths supported to start up self-help enterprises
4161 HHs reached with counselling on key family health practices

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 every 5 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)

<i>Life Stages</i>	<i>Annual Budget Current FY (A)</i>	<i>Cumulative Annual Expenditure To date (B)</i>	<i>Burn Rate on Annual Budget (E) E=B/A * 100%</i>
<i>Life Stage 1</i>	90,611	96,105	106%
<i>Life Stage 2</i>	339,046	309,905	91%
<i>Life Stage 3</i>	259,632	286,478	110%
<i>Capacity Building</i>	152,622	168,442	110%
<i>Sponsorship</i>	87,245	94,695	109%
<i>Community Contribution</i>	8,700	8,880	102%
<i>Total</i>	937,856	964,505	103%

Sources: Annual Operation Plans, Budgets, and financial system

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANTS SERVED

	Adu lts	Girls			Boys			
<i>Age Group</i>	<i>25 or olde r</i>	<i>0-5 years</i>	<i>6-14 years</i>	<i>15-24 years</i>	<i>0-5 years</i>	<i>6-14 years</i>	<i>15-24 years</i>	<i>Total Counts</i>
<i>Grants / NSPs / Emergencies</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Community wide; (non- enrolled families / children)</i>	<i>627 4</i>	<i>752</i>	<i>7704</i>	<i>1131</i>	<i>841</i>	<i>9173</i>	<i>1884</i>	<i>27759</i>
<i>Enrolled Children</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>222</i>	<i>1034</i>	<i>904</i>	<i>247</i>	<i>950</i>	<i>797</i>	<i>4154</i>
<i>Siblings of Enrolled Children</i>		<i>4416</i>	<i>2068</i>	<i>1804</i>	<i>494</i>	<i>1900</i>	<i>1598</i>	<i>12280</i>
<i>Parents / Guardians / Caregivers of enrolled children</i>	<i>415 4</i>							<i>4154</i>
<i>Government staff / structures</i>	<i>72</i>							<i>72</i>
<i>Partner Affiliate Staff and structures</i>	<i>25</i>							<i>25</i>
<i>Sub Total by Gender and Life Stage</i>	<i>105 25</i>	<i>5391</i>	<i>10810</i>	<i>3842</i>	<i>1585</i>	<i>12028</i>	<i>4281</i>	<i>48462</i>

Sources: Coverage table

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

Caregiver Empowerment Initiatives

54 (30 M, 24F) households in Kamuli, Jinja and Mayuge districts that were extremely affected by COVID19 received cash transfers and accessed food items during the time of crisis when the country was under total lockdown due to Covid19.

364 (166 M, 198 F) caregivers ‘with micro enterprises in Buwenge, Buwaaya, Kamuli and Manyiro communities received micro grants and revamped their businesses. The support helped the businesses to recover from the shock caused by Covid19 and caregivers can meet household needs.

5 caregiver groups of 113 members (39 M, 74 F) from Buwaaya, Manyiro, Buwenge and Kamuli communities were trained in enterprise management and supported with micro grants in bee keeping, goat rearing, bakery, and confectionary. The caregiver groups attained

competitive advantage due to improved quality of production, marketing, and customer care. The groups engaged in bakery and confectioneries are earning an average monthly income of UGX 150,000 for a living.

Promote Positive Parenting (Train TOTs, dialogues, home visits etc.)

180 spot messages, 180 DJ mention and periodic 19050 SMS on Covid-19 prevention, parenting and child protection were aired on radio and reached out to 4,143 caregivers at household level. The messages increased community awareness on COVID 19 preventive measures, child protection case reporting and positive parenting among Caregivers. This greatly reduced further spread of COVID 19 and to some extent increased the safety of children during the pandemic period.

Entrepreneurship and Business Development Initiatives

6 VSLA agents and 12 staff (14M, 5F) across the 6 communities were trained on MEDI and VSLA Associates model. They acquired skills and knowledge in selection, planning and management of IGA and VSLA groups.

These are applying the skills and knowledge attained to mentor VSLA groups on collective enterprise selection, investment, value addition, saving and loan management, documentation, and group policies.

All the 90 groups with 2501 members (853 M, 1,648 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. During the reporting period, eight (8) groups have been selected to benefit from the new government grant, the Parish community association fund and are still undergoing orientation on business management by the subcounty teams before they receive funds.

Early Childhood Development (ECD)

In response to District Education department's recommendation towards ensuring friendly learning spaces for children, 2 semi-permanent ECD shades were constructed at Imanyiro and Buwaaya communities to create space for social distancing and proper aeration during lessons. Child learning and play has been enhanced leading to increased child enrollment from 139 to 197 (102 M, 95 F) in the 2 centers.

Relatedly, 9 ECD teachers (all female) of community centres continued with in service training on ECD at Bishop Willis core PTC in Iganga. 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.

Child Protection

12 Child protection committee meetings were conducted across the six supported communities. The meetings brought together community stakeholders who noted escalating child abuse cases relating to Covid19 pandemic and the prolonged closure of schools. As a result, 52 village level meetings in identified hotspots of teenage pregnancy, child labour, drug abuse, and school dropouts reaching out to 2154 (899 M, 1255 F) village members were conducted. Members acquired knowledge and skills on case identification and referral pathways which has enhanced community alertness and consciousness to mitigate and report child abuse.

In addition, 649 (223 M, 426 F) children from Kamuli and Mayuge districts participated in the commemoration of the Day of the African child. In both districts, key advocacy messages were on 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.

Community Health Initiatives

In a bid to improve health service delivery, 18 review and planning meetings with 60 VHTs and 12 health workers on community health promotion strategies were conducted across the six supported communities. VHTs, health workers and JIACOFE staff were supported with sanitizers and masks for their safety. As a result, they reached out to 20111 members (9297 M, 10814F) in 4161 households with key health care practices focusing on ANC attendance, child immunization, home hygiene and sanitation, ASRH for youth and child protection/safety. This has translated into improved observance of COVID19 preventive strategies and increased uptake of available health services in the communities which has contributed to reduced child death incidences.

To increase awareness on Covid19 prevention and referral pathway, 1677 IEC materials were printed and distributed to youths in the supported communities. On the same note, 130 posters on Covid19 safety and prevention, and 64 (20 litres) jerrycans of hand washing soap were distributed to benefit pupils and staff in 16 supported schools. Key messages emphasised included observing Covid19 SOPs and undertaking vaccination. The intervention promoted high observance of Covid19 SOPs in the supported communities and schools hence reducing cases of new Covid19 infections.

Support Literacy and Numeracy Development

1307 (567 male and 740 female) school going children of primary 5 ,6, 7 and senior 1, 2, 3 and 4 were supported with PASS PLE and annual sets of home study materials to keep them abreast with key competencies, knowledge of their grades and general life skills during and post COVID-19 period. Children were encouraged to utilize their time for learning, knowledge building and participation in home chores. The children became more focused on learning and less involved in risky behaviours that came with extreme redundancy.

Youth-Livelihood, Sexual Reproductive Health, and life skills

In partnership with successful community-based entrepreneurs, 576 (254 M, 322 F) 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.

187 (51 M, 136 F) 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.

In addition, 273 (145 M, 128 F) youth who had started self-help micro-enterprises were boosted with micro business grants for expansion. These were trained and supported in bakery and confectionery, and retail businesses for income generation. This has reduced youth exploitation and participation in risky work for an income.

60 (31 M, 29 F) youth from Buwaaya, Imanyiro and Buwenge communities received start-up tools for hair dressing, tailoring, motor vehicle mechanics, motorcycle repair, carpentry, masonry, and electrical trades. The youth are now practicing their trades and earning an average monthly income of UGX 80,000 for a living.

In partnership with the district local governments of Kamuli, Mayuge and Jinja, JIACOFE participated in 2 advocacy events. 400 (140 M, 260 F) youths participated in the world Aids Day commemoration. Key messages to the duty bearers focused on availability, access to, and quality of ASRH services for young people; psycho-social wellbeing, access to employable skills to reduce exploitation and exposure to risks. Emphasis was put on setting personal life goals, how to strive and stay in school, and the ABC strategy as a way of living a healthier life. The event stimulated demand for ASRH services and commodities by the youth. Consequently, 168 (39 M, 128 F) youths were screened for HIV, and referred to HCIII and HCIV in their respective communities for ASRH services and commodities.