



P.O. Box: 1351 Jinja City- Uganda

Website: www.jiacofe.or.ug

Email: info@jiacofe.or.ug, jiacofe@gmail.com

JINJA AREA COMMUNITIES FEDERATION (JIACOFE) OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND.

JIACOFE is an umbrella association of parents and youth formed in 2004 to promote the well-being of children, youth and their families. **JIACOFE** is a local NGO registered by the Uganda National NGO Board. It operates in six communities in three districts: Wanyange & Buwenge (Jinja District), Imanyiro & Buwaaya (Mayuge) and Kamuli & Buwuda (Kamuli District). **JIACOFE** has plans to scale up interventions to other districts in Busoga subregion.

Vision statement: To contribute to a bright and sustainable future for all the children in the Jinja area, guided by the mission of facilitating communities to play a leading role in fighting against child poverty.

Governance: **JIACOFE** is governed by a board of 7 members drawn from the communities of operation with different skills set.

JIACOFE'S key objectives are:

1. To increase knowledge and access to primary healthcare (PHC) services among caregivers/parents of enrolled children in the Jinja area.
2. To promote access to quality education and a safe learning environment in the 16 supported schools in the Jinja area.
3. To increase community participation in child protection across the six supported communities in the Jinja area.
4. To improve household economic security, including income to adequately meet the needs of children and young adolescents in the Jinja area.
5. To prepare out-of-school youth for formal or non-formal gainful employment in the Jinja area.

Geographical scope/target population:

The organization targets to serve 22,888 people within the Busoga region through community-led programs.

Staff structure and program focus:

JACOFE has 27 members of staff with skills in community development and advocacy.

The organization complements the government’s efforts in promoting the socio-economic empowerment of communities.

Our key project interventions based on the context and community priorities include:

1. Early childhood development (ECD)
2. Basic education
3. Health and nutrition
4. Livelihoods and economic strengthening
5. Child protection, youth empowerment and advocacy
6. sponsorship

Partnerships and sustainability approach: In addition to ChildFund, JACOFE works closely with the district local governments, other NGOs and CSO networks to promote sustainable community-led initiatives aligned to the local government priorities and focuses on building the capacities of program participants and facilitators.

JACOFE KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 2013- 2023

| PROJECT | ACHIEVEMENTS | OUTCOMES |
|--|--|---|
| Early Childhood care and Development (ECD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six ECD model centers were constructed and equipped with both in and outdoor play materials • 5378 caregivers were oriented on the value of ECD with emphasis on the preparation of nutritious foods, good feeding practices, safe home environment, good parenting practices and child protection. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1468 children were enrolled and transitioned to primary. Teachers and caregivers testify that these children cope and perform better in primary schools than their counterparts who did not get any chance of ECD. • During community meetings, parents testify that they can communicate with their children, support their learning at the centers, identify signs of childhood illness seek medical help as well as adopting cost-effective good feeding practices. |
| Basic Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 schools are supported through improvement of teaching methodologies, life skills, child rights and participatory school governance. • Out of 16 schools, 6 were supported with infrastructural development such as classroom blocks, desks, teachers quarters, pit latrines and water sources. • 3563 children received | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has contributed to a conducive learning environment leading to increased enrolment in the supported schools. • The project has also improved teacher, pupil and parents’ relationships leading to regular school attendance. • During dialogue meetings on children’s learning, pupils are also confident to share issues that affect their learning both at home and school. The duty bearers make |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| | <p>learning materials during COVID pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2500 adolescent girls trained and supported with re-usable sanitary pads | <p>commitments to support child education.</p> |
| Youth Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,622 youths have been trained on vocational skills, entrepreneurship and adolescent reproductive health education. 999 youth were provided with start-up kits. • 3 youth centers have been constructed and equipped to promote access to youth-friendly services. • 1030 out of school youth are undergoing training on work readiness and soft skills. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These youth are now engaged in gainful employment and are contributing to their families and communities. • The youth centers are now avenues for collective youth engagement as well as promoting community initiatives for the wellbeing of the youth. |
| Household Economic Empowerment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,630 parents were trained in Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA) methodology and formed 126 VSLA groups. • 2,749 were trained in basic agronomic practices and microenterprise development. They were supported with start-up capital and farm inputs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group members have easy access to soft loans which they use to boost their enterprises and meet the basic needs of children such as education, food, shelter, and health. |
| Community Health Promotion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 deep wells were drilled, and five water tanks installed in the communities. • 3,200 households have been engaged in sanitation improvement campaigns. • Two outpatient and maternity units were constructed and equipped in underserved communities in Mayuge district. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is now increased access to clean and safe water sources for domestic/animal use. • Members of the community have access to quality health services from health centers. In addition, reports from health centers indicate an increase in the immunization coverage of children aged 0-5 years and antenatal attendance and skilled assisted deliveries. |