



OVERVIEW OF

Uganda

Overview of Uganda



YEAR OF
1962
INDEPENDENCE

POPULATION
34,758,809
MILLION

25%
Population
BELOW
poverty line

Languages

English and over 40 Ethnic languages.

Under-five Mortality Rate: 90 per 1,000 live births. Uganda ranks 26 in the world.

Human Development Index (HDI) for 2012: 0.456 (ranked 161 out of 187, indicating low human development).

Brief History of ChildFund in Uganda

ChildFund came to Uganda: 1980

Number of states/provinces, etc.: 112 districts

Number of enrolled children FY13: 34,929

Participant Reach FY13: 473,820

ChildFund International has operated in Uganda since 1980. In the last 32 years, we have expanded our reach to 36 districts, covering 52 communities through 9 Local Partners, with support from over 1,500 community based volunteers and 700 home based caregivers. We have supported over 1,200,000 deprived, excluded and vulnerable children and 750,000 families. At the end of FY13, we had 34,929 enrolled children and a total of 473,820 participants.

Brief Program Overview



Healthy and Secure infants: ChildFund supports interventions for child health including constructing and equipping health centers, community education and support in water and sanitation, child nutrition, immunization, safe motherhood and malaria prevention and positive living for HIV/Aids affected families.

Educated and Confident Children: ChildFund supports student initiatives such as school clubs in extra curricula activities such as counseling desks, talking compounds, sports, music, dance and drama; construction of class room blocks, teacher's houses and ventilated improved pit latrines; improvement in school governance; and continuous assessment of children's performance in schools.

Skilled and Involved Youth: ChildFund supports training of out of school youth in life and vocational skills such as welding, motor vehicle mechanics, carpentry, tailoring, catering and assists them with business start-up capital and kits. We give support to child and youth leadership forums and address youth participation issues through policy advocacy.

2013 Program Achievement

Healthy and Secure Infants: To reduce the proportion of children suffering from common childhood illnesses, ChildFund reached out to a total of 30,790 children with the following programs aimed at improving health: (1) 9,713 children benefited from medical examination and treatment; (2) 14,686 children were immunized; (3) 3,935 under five children received long lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets; (4) 10,161 children were de-wormed; (5) 1,667 children participating in ECD centers benefited from routine growth monitoring; and (6) 243 severely malnourished children were supported with food supplements and treatment.

In addition, one children's ward and two health centers were constructed and as a result, 2,312 children now have improved access to health services. These interventions reduced the percentage of enrolled children who present serious health concerns and crises from 10% in June 2012 to 6% in June 2013.



2013 Program Achievement (continued)

A total of 274 HIV positive pregnant mothers were followed up with post test counseling services and referrals to various health facilities for continued support and attention. Further, 315 HIV positive infants benefited from care and treatment services including being supported with nutritious supplements and transport to their respective hospitals to access Anti-Retro Viral Therapy (ART). We also provided 620 infected and affected caregivers with HIV/AIDS Kits and 1,200 mama kits to mothers in labor, which has increased skilled assisted deliveries in the health centers and as a result, there is improved access to care and treatment services for HIV positive pregnant women and infants.

To improve the quality of center based ECD services, 18 ECD management committees were trained on their roles and responsibilities; 137 ECD Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) were trained on the ECD framework, child growth, development and monitoring, health care and nutrition, good parenting practices, child protection and making ECD play materials using locally available raw materials.

Two new ECD centers were constructed; 8 latrines were constructed at various centers; and 86 ECD centers were supported with stationary and play materials.

As a result of these interventions, we have registered a 43% increase (from 4,251 to 6,073) in ECD enrollment while a total of 857 children transitioned from ECD to primary one.



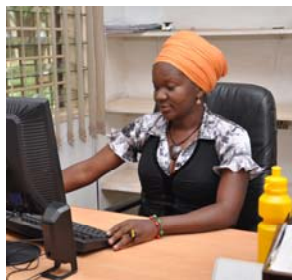
Educated and Confident Children: We supported five (5) primary schools with 312 desks; 16,050 children from 21 schools received copies of Newspapers in Education (NiE) as a Teaching and Learning Aid; and 25 schools were supported with 2,309 textbooks and instructional materials while two (2) school libraries were furnished and equipped.

A total of 12 latrines were constructed in 9 schools. This support has improved the average pupil to stance ratio in seven schools.

In the Soroti Area, 202 teachers from 24 schools were trained on *Safe School Environment*. Twelve (12) other schools received 216 pillars of talking compound messages. A total of 1,139 girls were trained in life skills and the making of local sanitary pads, and 1,021 parents were sensitized on girl child education.

These interventions have improved the quality of education delivered to the most deprived communities in Uganda.

2013 Program Achievement (continued)



Skilled and Involved Youth: Vocational, leadership, advocacy and business-related skills training and awareness raising continue to hold a central place in our work with youth in Uganda. In FY13, 1,476 youth were trained in various vocational skills such as hairdressing, tailoring, cookery, electric installation, driving, carpentry, and motor vehicle mechanics, among others. The technical skills were supplemented by training in business skills, group dynamics, leadership, social skills and conflict resolution. These skills have improved the youths' employability and income earning potential.

Through efforts to increase knowledge, access and utilization of sexual and reproductive health material, a total of 20,108 youths were reached with sensitization on reproductive health, life skills, growth and adolescence sexuality, teenage pregnancy, STDs, self protection and personal hygiene. As a result, 6,305 of them directly accessed reproductive health services. It is expected that these interventions will reduce early pregnancies and the spread of STDs among the youth and adolescents.

In an effort to promote leadership skills development, ChildFund Uganda supported 50 youth in the Mayuge district to participate in a youth gala aimed at promoting talents among in-school and out-of-school youth. Eight-five (85) youth leaders were trained in local government budget analysis; 24 were trained in advocacy; and 120 other youth participated in dialogues aimed at giving them opportunities to raise issues affecting them and their families. As a result, these youth have a better understanding and opportunities to participate in government processes that impact on their rights, for example, resource allocation and utilization.

Civil Society: To increase target households' income and livelihood security, 1,755 caregivers and parents of vulnerable children were supported with income generating activities. These households received training and assistance with forming Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) through which they saved and borrowed to expand their income generating activities. This intervention increased many families' potential to meet their basic needs.

Four (4) boreholes were constructed while 30 others were repaired. To ensure their proper maintenance, 41 water source management committees were trained. This has improved access to clean and safe water for approximately 30,115 people.

We conducted community outreaches and school campaigns on hand washing, the need to construct pit latrines, drying racks and other elements of good hygiene and sanitation. As a result of the door to door outreaches, a total of 7,170 households were reached and 1,000 (14%) of the households that had no pit latrines and other essentials constructed them, increasing the number of households with good hygiene and sanitation requirements from 5,019 to 6019. This has helped the families prevent diseases.

2013 Program Achievement (continued)

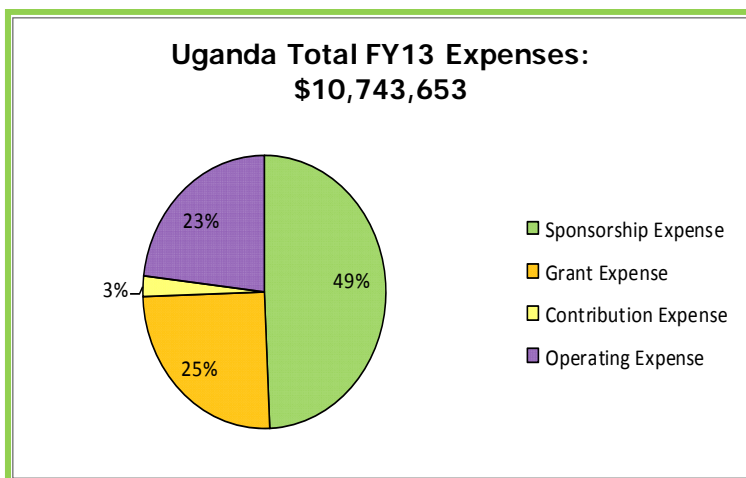
The Child Protection in Crisis Learning Network has supported the establishment of an interagency Program Learning Group (PLG) in Uganda which is hosted by ChildFund. The PLG in Uganda is comprised of 38 NGOs, academic institutions and government ministries, promoting research and learning on children’s protection and wellbeing. This engagement with the PLG has enabled ChildFund to:

- Conduct community based child protection systems mappings in Northern Uganda and West Nile.
- Implement a project to strengthen and link community based child protection systems to national systems.
- Undertake a desk review of existing child protection interventions to address child sexual abuse in Uganda.

Findings from these studies are ultimately informing the building and strengthening of a national child protection system for Uganda.

ChildFund Uganda in collaboration with Makerere University College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Trans-cultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) Uganda and Columbia University has established *AFRICHILD-a Centre for the Study of the African Child*. The goal of AFRICHILD is to be a multi-disciplinary child focused research and knowledge development center that contributes to building evidence, knowledge and skills to influence policy, as well as enhance programmatic capacity and practice concerning the wellbeing of the African child.

Financial Report



Uganda FY13		
Sponsorship Expense	5,296,087	49%
Grant Expense	2,703,013	25%
Contribution Expense	261,578	2%
Operating Expense	2,482,975	23%
Total Expense	10,743,653	100%

Challenges

While significant progress has been made to increase access to primary education in Uganda, there is a big challenge with the quality of education which is manifested in an over 50% school dropout rate. The high rate is largely attributed to insufficient school infrastructure (e.g., furniture, classrooms), lack of girl-child friendly facilities at school, teenage pregnancies, lack of meals at school and poor motivation of teachers.

In Uganda, youth unemployment is high, labor productivity is low and the labor market is fraught with tremendous inequalities. Although efforts have been made to implement the national youth employment policy, strengthen labor market information systems, establish non-formal skills development targeted at women and youth and to improve access to finance, the progress is very slow.

Uganda suffers from a poor policy and legislative framework for children and thus, ChildFund has established a working relationship with the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children (a group of members of parliament whose primary objective is to support advocacy efforts aimed at improving the policy and legislative framework for children) to advocate for the amendment of the Children's Act, cognizant of the evolving circumstances which have increased children's vulnerability. Other advocacy areas include increase of budgeting for child protection and improvement in the Early Childhood Development policy, among others. In FY13, we sensitized members of parliament on their role in building a national child protection system for Uganda and we hope this enhanced understanding will help bring desired positive change for children.

In urban areas such as Kampala and Jinja, most of the families live in rented houses, and are often times indebted to microfinance institutions. So, it is not uncommon that they get evicted from the houses due to failure to pay their rent, or they might relocate to new unknown locations in an effort to escape the pressure from micro-finance institutions for their unpaid loans.

The Soroti Area experiences alternating droughts and storms which lead to flooding and water logging. This is catastrophic for many vulnerable communities since they cannot engage in meaningful agriculture for food security during such periods and this negatively impacts on children's nutrition.

Why Sponsorship is Important



Fredrick has bought farm animals with the help of his sponsor, which has increased his family's income. His dream of becoming an Engineer is now in reach.

Fredrick's family grew their own food, like many other families in their village. They used the food for their meals and sold the extra vegetables. This was enough to help the family get by, but the income was too low to send Fredrick and his six siblings to school.

Fortunately, Fredrick, who is now 21, got a sponsor through ChildFund in 2000. He was able to go to school then; and, today, he's on his way to becoming a mechanical engineer.

"When I first went to school," he says, "I felt hopeless because I didn't see a bright future in education. My parents were poor. I didn't think I'd reach this level of education."

The assurance he got from his sponsor, Kathryn, through letters and gifts gave him confidence and the hope that he could achieve his goal. When Fredrick finally sat for his A-level exams in 2012, he scored an outstanding 15 points in physics, chemistry, mathematics and economics. With such a stellar performance, Fredrick feels his dream has drawn even closer.

Fredrick received one heifer through ChildFund and used the monetary gifts from his sponsor to purchase a second one. Over time, these animals have multiplied to seven, and with proceeds from the sale of milk and calves, he has bought seven goats. The milk from all these animals has been of great help to the family, as they sell it and also use some of it at home.

The family has also managed to build a semi-permanent house, which is a major step forward from the mud-and-grass-thatched house they lived in before.

"This helped me realize I could reach my dream with the little I have," Fredrick says. He plans to start his engineering training in January 2014.

Why Sponsorship is Important

School Feeding

Many government primary schools in Uganda do not provide meals for their pupils. This is usually because the schools do not have enough money to buy the food. Such was the case at Masodde Moslem Primary School in the Kiboga Area.

Pupils did not have any meals at school yet most of them left home without having breakfast. This gravely affected the children's performance as they could hardly concentrate especially during afternoon lessons when they were too hungry. Many of these children would escape from school to go hunt for fruits or go home so they could find something to eat. This not only affected the children but their teachers as well, either because their pupils became disoriented or they were equally hungry. Teachers would also oftentimes miss classes.

In July 2012, ChildFund intervened with a feeding program which involved constructing a kitchen for the school, installing energy saving stoves and providing maize and beans which would be used to prepare break time porridge and lunch for the children.

The parents of the children were given maize and bean seeds for planting to ensure continuity of the feeding program. These unfortunately did not do well due to a drought outbreak in the Area.

The impact of the school feeding program however, was tremendous. For the first time, the school registered 9 first grade completions, 48 second grade completions, 18 third grade completions, 4 fourth grade completions, 2 ungraded and 4 failures in the National primary leaving exams last year. It should be noted that this was the first time the school was registering first grade completions as the best performance had been in 2008 when 8 pupils passed in the second grade.

The performance improvement last year was attributed to improved concentration and motivation of pupils and teachers to carry on with school programs.