



CHILDREN OF UGANDA

1/1/2020 - 1/1/2021



2020

IMPACT REPORT



OUR MISSION:

To impact children and families in an effort to address economic disparity and social injustice.

OUR VISION:

We envision a world where children and their families are equipped with the critical resources to thrive.

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CHILDREN OF UGANDA

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Gratitude Beyond Measure

Have you considered the impact you have on your loved ones? The environment? At work? Every day – you leave a mark in your corner of the garden. And, as we look back on a year unlike any other, I want you to know the profound impact your support in 2020 made to uplift and empower women and youth in Uganda.

On March 20th, 2020, the entire country went on lockdown due to COVID-19 – closing borders, the airport, schools and businesses – *which drastically challenged our families and fundamentally transformed the way we deliver services*. As our team quickly adapted, you stepped up in ways to assist that simply blew us away with gratitude and hope.



Over and over again, you came through to help us provide 3 rounds of emergency food relief, dignity kits for our most vulnerable girls and boys (which included personal hygiene products and safety items like whistles and flashlights), health checks, malaria nets and mosquito repellent to combat rising malaria cases, new clothes, and (perhaps most importantly) the knowledge that they were not alone. You helped us navigate through a developing crisis and helped ensure that our guardians would not be put in a position to make decisions out of desperation.

We are so grateful that, in our 25th year and in the midst of a global pandemic, our family of supporters made remarkable investments in our life-saving work. And, while many organizations were forced to close their doors in 2020, you gave us all the resources we needed to keep our families safe and reinvent our empowerment model.

Your efforts and support literally saved lives – *lives that were already vulnerable*. This fact alone is something we could never measure nor ever properly thank you for. The silver lining in 2020 for us was being lifted up by your loving kindness; it was being able to tell a grandmother her grandkids would have food; it was being able to provide children with medical services; it was knowing we were growing stronger together.

I remember hearing a story after the Boston marathon bombing. A nurse shared that at the moment of impact – with debris flying everywhere – she witnessed hundreds of people running away as she ran towards folks who had been severely injured. When asked why she didn't run away, she simply said that she didn't even give it a thought – *she ran to where help was needed*.

Thank you for running towards our beloved families and providing the help they so urgently needed. Your impact has left a lifelong legacy in the Pearl of Africa.

With Deepest Gratitude,



Cheryl E. Hargrow

Cheryl Hargrow,
Board Chair



Pamela Brannon

Pamela Brannon,
Executive Director

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Family Welfare Support & Relief Supplies Delivered:



572 emergency food bundles

10,048 pounds of rice

11,726 pounds of beans



22,581 pounds of maize flour

391 mosquito nets



194 solar lanterns

253

families received anti-malaria kits

526 bars of insect repellent soap

2,648 bars of washing soap

194 whistles



171 students received group counseling



174

youth medical check-ups

88

students given one-on-one counseling



1,113

child and family welfare checks
(via home visit or by phone)

475 items of clothing

209 hand sanitizers

47 existing IGAs monitored

4 new Income Generating Activities (IGAs):
tailoring, soap making, book making &
reusable sanitary towel making



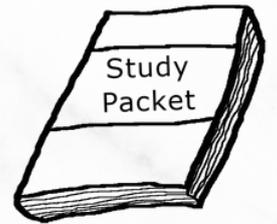
37 guardians participated in IGA lockdown trainings

7 guardians were supported
with individual IGA inputs

108 older girls received Dignity Kits

1,061 sanitary towels

194 flashlights **310** study materials



THANK YOU



Food Security

As you can clearly see, our supporters have made a measurable and truly impactful difference in the lives of Ugandan families during this most unprecedented year. *And yet, what remains impossible to measure is the enormous extent of our gratitude!*



Joel Atamba and his mother Sarah are happy and relieved to pick-up their food bundle.

Nevertheless, the most consistent message we received from our supported families was profound gratitude for the food relief – 3 months worth of the staples our kids eat. **Food security means everything.** And so, we tackled this problem from two approaches: providing immediate, emergency food bundles, in addition to supporting existing farm and agriculture-based Income Generating Activities (IGAs) to help feed children and families.

The emergency food bundles contained enough maize flour, beans, rice, cooking oil, salt, bathing soap and detergent to last each food insecure family for one whole month (again, bundles were distributed on 3 separate occasions).

Guardians with home vegetable and fruit gardens, crop production or managing an animal husbandry project - especially those that had been boosted via our Family Empowerment Program pre-COVID - fared far better than most families who had nothing to fall back on. We provided as much support as possible given lockdown restrictions, as well as delivered farm inputs (fertilizer, insecticide, seedlings, garden tools, boots, etc.).



Sharon Namumbya receives her food bundle and soap.

Sponsored student Jovia Nakiyimba's mother is seen here holding her home grown produce.



Messages of Gratitude

“I AM REALLY GRATEFUL THAT, WHILE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE QUARANTINE MY FAMILY AND I WERE BADLY OFF IN TERMS OF FEEDING, CHILDREN OF UGANDA CAME TO OUR RESCUE.”

-Patricia Nampeera, COU university student



For my whole life on the program, I have a basket of uncountable things to thank Children of Uganda for - starting with the sponsorship, visits both at school and home, clothing, camps, feedings - not forgetting the talks that have transformed my life into a great strong young man who is yet to win his success.

-Patrick Kitumba

“THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE, ALL THOSE ITEMS FOR MY FAMILY?! THANK YOU SO MUCH COU. WITH THIS FOOD, I CAN STRONGLY MOVE ON.”

-Mother of sponsored girl, Judith Takali

“COU, YOU ARE OUR HEROES!”

-Mother of sponsored girl, Mercy Nabbumba

“YOU HAVE SAVED US FROM DARKNESS.”

-Mother of sponsored girl, Jovia Nakiyimba

“I AM OVERWHELMED WITH HOW TRANSPARENT COU IS BECAUSE I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAVE GIVEN MONEY FOR FOOD IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME AND YOU AVAILED IT TO US! NOT EVEN OUR OWN GOVERNMENT CAN DO THAT”

-Grandmother of sponsored boy, Fred Duncan Mulindwa



IGA WOMEN'S GROUP TRAININGS

Bookmaking

In an effort to empower guardians and to help families generate income from the safety of their homes, we initiated several IGA lockdown trainings - including bookmaking.

In Uganda, there is demand for black composition books from school-age children to professionals. Wholesale price for one notebook is 3,500 shillings (\$1), but the same product can be handmade for a fraction of the cost.

Our first bookmaking training was held August 21st-24th. Expert bookmaker, Godfrey Kato, was brought in to teach the women how to make both small exercise books, as well as standard black composition books. Within just 4 days of training, everyone was able to make a book independently. Trainees were also encouraged to teach their children so they could learn a new skill and gain insight into how to run an IGA.



These women are learning how to construct and paste their composition books together.

In Mukono, we now have a successful team of 8 women who meet once a week for 5 hours. The group decided that every time they meet, each member should make at least 15 books – **a total of 120 books weekly and 480 books a month**. This has ensured steady growth and the availability of stock for their customers. The group is also training new members at a fee of 100,000 shillings (\$28). With such a vast and readily available market, a small business venture like this truly has no limits!



*Empowered
Women
Empower
Women*

Tailoring

Two tailoring training centers were set-up for economic empowerment during the lockdown. Guardians already skilled in sewing were called to act as trainers to fellow interested women with sponsored kids in our program. Lydia Nsubuga (mother of Julius Ssebazza) and Jessica Nakakande (mother of Shifah Namugabi) each taught 3 women for a total of 6 trainees. Thanks to our *100 Women Club* supporters, we were able to purchase two brand new sewing machines, as well as supply fabrics, thread, sewing pattern paper and other tailoring supplies for the women to use at their training centers.



Trainer Jessica Nakakande, with her daughter Shifah, is happy to receive a new sewing machine and fabrics

Trainees were first taught how to make paper dresses, cut fashions and mend clothes by hand. Then they learned how to sew children's dresses, shirts and shorts using a sewing machine.

All project beneficiaries were encouraged to actively participate in a COU established Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) and our team will continue to provide training as their business expands.

Our ultimate hope is that older students in our program, as well as local community members who take an interest in the project, will be able to benefit as the women acquire the skills and experience necessary to train others.



Trainer Lydia Nusubuga (*third in from the left*) stands proudly with the women she trained in tailoring - thanks to COU's support - during the pandemic.

Soapmaking

Soap is an essential item needed and used by everyone everywhere (even more so due to the pandemic), which made it an ideal project to introduce to our supported families. And so, **5 COU guardians were selected to participate in professional-led mosquito-repellent and liquid soap making trainings** to help them start-up their own group IGA.

The women were taken through all steps of the manufacturing process, as well as shown the types of materials and quantities needed to make a safe and effective product. They were trained in quality assurance, hygiene maintenance, safety precautions while at work, product storage and product maturity period. They were also taught basic records keeping.

Guardians were grateful to COU for the knowledge, skills and soap making tools. They simply cannot wait to start marketing and selling their soaps, to teach other community members and to increase production. Samples of both the liquid soap and mosquito-repellant soap that have been produced are very promising. One of the group's primary target markets are the local schools, which we are now approaching to partner with us.



Mosquito-repellent soap making process



Finished bars of soap drying



Liquid Soap Making group in Kyotera

Reusable Sanitary Pads

11 women (8 guardians and 3 COU staff members) undertook a training on September 11th, 2020 to learn how to make reusable sanitary pads. The lesson included what materials are most efficient for menstruation absorption and that are also fairly priced.

COU has provided disposable sanitary towels during the lockdown and at school; however, the girls often do not have enough to last them at home and commercial sanitary pads are more expensive. A pack of reusable pads goes for about UGX 6,000 (\$2) which can be used for an entire year, while the cheapest store-bought packet is UGX 3,000 (\$1). If you average 2 packets per month, that's \$24 a year.

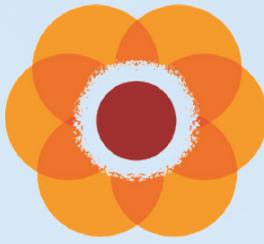


Guardians and COU staff members proudly show off their finished products.

Reusable sanitary pads are an excellent substitute, especially during the holidays when many girls do not have access to safe alternatives.

The 11 trainees were divided into 2 groups; those that learnt the hand sewing method and those that used the sewing machine. The latter were those guardians undergoing the lockdown sewing training who had machines. All of the women are now able to pass this skill down onto other guardians and children on the program.





Children
of Uganda

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**YOUR MEMBERSHIP
TRANSFORMS LIVES!**



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