

# **Annual Report 2020**



A CHANCE FOR CHILDREN NGO, Uganda

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

A CHANCE FOR CHILDREN (ACFC) is a non-governmental organization based in Zigoti, 53 kilometers from Kampala. We have been operating in Mityana, Kasanda and Mubende districts for the past 12 years but in the year 2020 we managed to extend our services to Mpigi district and also acquired land in Gomba that means we can provide our services now in 5 districts all together.



Coordinator Betty Nabulimu heads a team of more than 300 people

# LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF ACFC

The organization has a general assembly and an executive which meets at the beginning of the year to plan how best the organization's activities can be enhanced. ACFC is managed by staff at headquarters, headed by the coordinator who meets with the chairman to set weekly programs.



ACFC chairman Cesar Lukango (middle) meeting officials in Mityana



ACFC general assembly 2020

### **ORGANISATION EMPLOYEES**

The Organisation ensures that it pays the salaries of its employees with NSSF 12 months a year. As a sign of motivation, a bonus is also given to all employees after a period of 3 year

1)	Teachers/heads and bursars	169
2)	Administration at headquarters	6
3)	Workshops (Carpentry, Welding, Tailoring, Mechanics, Mill, Hairdressing, Shoemaking)	26
4)	Farm workers and porters	5
5)	Matrons	39
6)	Cooks	19
7)	Health workers	16
8)	Social workers	9
9)	Field officers	4
10)	Askari	6
11)	Laundress	4
	Total	303

All employees are registered for NSSF and pay as you earn is also paid. Staff are provided with accommodation when needed and food during working hours.

To ensure effective service delivery in different sectors, various meetings are held each month as follows:

- 1) Department heads meet in the middle of the month.
- 2) Schools administrators meet at the end of the month.
- 3) Field staff and social workers meet in the last week of the month.



Administration staff of headquarter and CB schools



Staff meeting

### **DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

A CHANCE FOR CHILDREN

Our funding organisation is KINDERN EINE CHANCE (KEC) based in Austria, represented by Stefan Pleger and Gabi Ziller plus other board members who not only send money but also come visit Uganda up to four times a year to monitor value for donor funding. Accounts are sent regularly, at least every other week, to the board in Austria to ensure transparency and to update them on developments. We receive volunteers from Europe regularly to support ACFC staff in developing their skills and we receive visitors who want to see value for donors' funds.



Development partner Stefan Pleger discusses with construction team the progress in Kamusenene



Austrian nursery college trainer Astrid Zimmermann held a workshop for ACFC nusery teachers



Austrian nursery teacher Elena Neuner worked at Nakaziba nursery school as a volunteer



Donor Helmut Edlinger visited the boarding section at Bongole SS which was funded by him and his wife.

### 2. ACFC AIM AND MAIN OBJECTIVES

Our major aim is to support orphans and other vulnerable children and give them access to quality education and a bright future. Objectives include:

- 1) To turn children into future job makers rather than job seekers.
- 2) To encourage effective formal education in schools.
- 3) To encourage skills development programmes for children/young adults.
- 4) To empower caretakers with knowledge and skills so they can provide children's basic needs without our support.
- 5) To create a conducive learning environment for children by constructing schools in remote areas.
- 6) To care for all vulnerable children, including those who are HIV positive and have special needs as well as children from very poor families.



Farming plays a vital role in Uganda's daily life and is taught at all ACFC stations



During Lockdown homescholling was essential for supported children



Practical skills are essential for the future of the students

### 3. ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

A CHANCE FOR CHILDREN

Here are just a few highlights of 2020:

- Completion of construction of »School for All« at Busunju.
- Continuation of construction of a Vocational College at Nakaziba.
- Completion of construction of »ACFC Gruenerbl nursery and primary school« at Kamusenene in Mubende district.
- Completion of a classroom block at Kalangalo.
- Construction of a primary school at Butimba.
- Construction of a primary school at Butimba.
  Construction of a classroom block at Ttanda.
- Construction of Nateete workshop building.



View of »Busunju school for all«



Middle class in Kamusenene nursery school



The first children at »Businju schools for all«



The veranda of the Gruenerbl school in Kamusenene is nearly done

# 3. ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

- We managed to train 12 girls how to ride a motorbike.
- The Organisation supported 503 needy families in Mityana and Mubende with food and soap during COVID period.
- We gave out seeds to 228 supported families to improve on their income and reduce food insecurity in families
- Teachers carried out home visits during this period to ensure that children don't forget completely about schooling.
- Re-usable sanitary pads were given to 662 girls to ensure that they have what to use during their periods and to reduce on the high risks while looking for money to buy pads.
- Learning materials were provided to all pupils in 156 government aided schools in Mityana, 20 government schools in Mubende and to all pupils in ACFC Schools.



Sanitary pad workshop



Distribution of learning packages by ACFC in Mityana



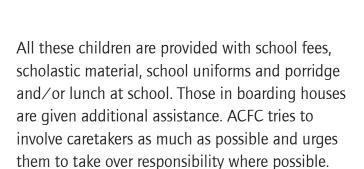
228 families benefited from the seeds programme



### 3.1. CHILDREN'S SPONSORSHIP & SUPPORT

Number of sponsored children on 31.12.2020:

	Males	Female	Total
Tertiary institutes	3	8	11
Secondary level	99	111	210
In-service training	4	18	22
Primary	480	481	961
E.C.D.C	81	67	148
Workshops	7	6	13
TOTAL	621	629	1250





In taloring masks were made and then distributetd to staff and students



ACFC hairdressing workshop in Zigoti

# 3.1.1. VOCATION SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF ACFC (Trainees)

		Males	Female	Total	Completed in 2020
1)	Carpentry	1	0	1	0
2)	Tailoring	1	4	5	0
3)	Welding	4	0	4	0
4)	Shoemaking	1	1	2	0
5)	Mechanics	0	0	0	0
6)	Hairdressing	0	1	1	0
TOTA	AL	7	6	13	0

We educate young people to become job makers than job seekers by offering such skills to school leavers who have failed S.4 or P.7, or even those who dropped out earlier. We bring them to our workshops and give them a chance to choose according to their interest and receive training for two years. In the second year they have the opportunity to sit for DIT (Directorate of Industrial Training) exams at St. Theresa vocational school in Zigoti.

# 3.1.2. IN-SERVICE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME FOR NURSERY, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Males	Female	Total
4	18	22

This programme helps future nursery, primary or secondary teachers to train on the job while studying during holidays. These people help in ACFC schools during their in-service time and acquire a lot of practice. ACFC pays school fees and/or tops up requirements where necessary.

# 3.1.3. HIV CHILDREN POSITIVE LIVING PROGRAMME

Mityana		Mubende		Total
Females	Males	Females	Males	
42	42	40	23	147
Mothers				
46		40		86

This programme operates in Mityana and Mubende districts and caters for HIV positive living children and some positive living mothers as indicated above. Every month we provide transport to the hospital for their medicine and check up by doctors. We provide nutritious food (sugar, maize flour, beans, rice and different types of soya) and bathing soap.

Our social workers carry out regular visits to their homes to check on hygiene, bedding, hospital attendance and health status. In case of severe sickness, if they are admitted to hospital, we cover treatment costs. Three times a year during school holidays,we offer special counselling meetings with nurses and counselors.



### 3.2. SOCIAL WORK

Our social workers register children who seek support, carry out family visits to their families and select cases which should receive support. Their findings are presented to Uganda and Austria management teams and together decisions about who should be supported are taken.

Educating caretakers about sanitation and hygiene, food security, economic boosters. Supported families are regularly followed up.

- Offering counselling and guidance to all children in the organization's schools in Mityana and Mubende Districts.
- Providing economic booster services, for instance starting up saving groups, providing seedlings (e.g passion fruits, pumpkins, beans, maize) to selected families, training women in income -generating projects like arts & crafts, training families in farming basics.
- Teaching adolescents how to make re-usable sanitary pads to reduce absenteeism during their menstrual period and educating girls about personal hygiene.
- Training girls to ride a bicycle or motor bike in order to improve their mobility.
- Providing bedding (mosquito nets, blankets, bed sheets) to the most needy cases.



Distribution of beddings to families who had to sleep on the ground



**Driver Martin delivering mattresses** 

# CHALLENGES THAT WERE FACED IN 2020 DUE TO THE LOCKDOWN

- Food shortages where shops raised the prices of food and other items and local suppliers opted to preserve it for home consumption.
- Positive living children and mothers had challenges in accessing their medical treatment due to high transport costs and limitations on the transport means.
- Some defilement and rape cases were recorded since it was hard for caretakers to protect their children at home.
- Indiscipline, many children became uncontrollable by caretakers as they had a lot of free time.
- Poor personal hygiene among children due to lack of soap and old casual clothes which they were putting on.
- Unwanted pregnancies among young girls and to a worst extent incest also took place.
- A lot of time was spent in the hospital waiting for drugs as healthy personals seemed busy



ACFC management team meeting district officials in MItyana to organise food distribution during lockdown



Food support in lockdown



Food distribution to a very needy family



### **ACTIONS TAKEN**

- Food support was extended to families that could not afford buying food. Here we gave out beans 15,960kgs, Maize 20,658kgs and Soap 4059 to more than 500 families
- Seeds were provided to 228 families who could not afford buying, this was aimed at ensuring that families have enough food in future and preserve some for planting the next seasons.
- Clothings and soap were also distributed to children to improve on their hygiene. More than 200 supported children were given shoes from our own workshops paid by their sponsors.
- Defilement and rape. This was addressed by imprisoning the offenders as we also provided counseling and guidance to our young girls and caretakers who appeared to be psychologically tortured. On the same note those we felt that they were not safe at home were brought back at our stations (schools).
- Pregnancy tests, counseling and guidance were conducted in communities to reduce on early marriages and unwanted pregnancies.
- Materials for re-usable sanitary pads were also distributed to 662 girls to enable them get what to use in their periods other than suffering without what to use.



Shoes were given to more than 200 children.



Ronald is very happy about his new pair of shoes.

### 3.3. ORGANISATION SCHOOLS

ACFC runs several of its own schools. The first were Bongole Primary and Butimba Primary schools which opened in 2010. The last to open was Kamusenene nursery and primary plus nursery section for school for all Busunju.



**Primary School Kalangalo** 

# A.) Primary and Nursery Schools

No	Name of schools	Total in schools	Boys fully supported	Girls fully supported
1	Bongole PS and nursery	385	52	49
3	Kakindu PS	344	28	23
4	Kakindu Nursery	145	6	2
5	Lukingiridde Nursery	81	2	1_
6	Butimba PS and nursery	396	11	9
7	Nateete PS and nursery	573	80	109
8	Lubajja PS and nursery	355	10	9
9	Kalangalo PS and nursery	329	2	0
10	Nakaziba Nursery	50	22	28
11	Kamusenene	54	30	24
12	Busunju	31	14	17
	Total	2806	257	271

In the list above nursery and primary schools are only separated where they already have separate administrations. Most of our schools are registered with ministry of Education and Sports and few of them have not yet received their certificates but already submitted documents to the responsible offices. The primary schools in Bongole, Kakindu, Nateete and Lubajja have facilities for boarders. This year however we had to concentrate on homeschooling, so our teachers went so see the children in the villages and met them in small groups to teach them and give them and collect homework. Families of our supported children lack access to internet, television, radio or newspapers.



**Primary school Kakindu** 





SOPs were strictly followed at ACFC schools



Children stuyding from home during lockdown



**Homeschooling in Nateete** 



Homeschooling by a teacher from Kakindu



Senior 4 candidates back at school in Nateete



SOPs taken at Butimba for candidates

# **B.) Secondary schools**

No	Name of schools	Total	Boys supported	Girls supported
1	Bongole S.S.S	239	54	61
2	Nateete S.S.S	241	45	50
	Total	480	99	111

Both Schools have registered Centers for UCE (O level) exams with facilities for boarders. Both schools offer vocational subjects and the best students can do the DIT exams at the end of Senior 3.



S4 candidates back at school



Senior 4 candidates back at school in Bongole

# C.) College

No	Name of schools	Total	Boys supported	Girls supported
1	Nakaziba College	9	0	9
	Total	9	0	9

The college only started in 2020 and due to a very short period of teaching ist was not easy to attract a higher number of students which will hopefully change in future. in-sevice-training shall be offered soon. The college has an attached training kindergarten.



### 3.4. SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAMME

This programme caters for children who are physically handicapped or deaf and also includes children with severe learning difficulties and speech problems. ACFC runs two schools for handicapped children in Zigoti: Christoph Bettermann School 1 (catering for children who are too young to study and very severe cases) and Christoph Bettermann School 2 (focusing on those who can benefit from some education and also vocational training) and Schools for All in Mubende and Busunju. Additionally there is a nursery and primary school for the deaf at Ttanda.

Schools	Females	Males	Total
CB 1 Zigoti	15	20	35
CB 2 Zigoti	42	45	87
School for All Mubende	36	32	68
School for the deaf Ttanda	57	58	115
School for All Busunju	7	13	20
TOTAL	152	173	325

# Some of the activities/services conducted in our special needs programme include:

- Introduction to formal education.
- Outreach programme to families with children with special needs in the community, field visits, home therapy, counseling.
- Physiotherapy and occupational therapy in our schools for handicapped children at school and in the communities.
- Speech therapy for children who need it.
- Providing plaster casts for children who need them mostly those with club foot, knock knees and related cases.

- Support for children who need surgery through Namutamba, Cure and CORSU.
- Regular home visits including home therapy.
- Regular therapy camps where caretakers come with their children for two weeks to the schools to get better treatment and therapy.
- A nutrition programme where malnourished children are given support every month.
- An orthopedic workshop making plastic aids for legs and arms.

# CHALLENGES FACED IN 2020 DUE TO LOCK-DOWN

- We lost some children due to lack of transport to access the hospital. Here government stopped all movements. There were no cars, motorbikes and when they were allowed after a long time, it was very expensive.
- There was a challenge of food shortage in our community due to high prices. Whoever had some food for the market opted keeping it for home consumption
- Schools were closed and all children went back home hence studying was disrupted.
- Children in Ttanda declined in sign language due to long period without studying.
- School terms were shortened and this affected us because the content to teach the children was large yet limited time.
- Some children who were far away and were not accessed with the motorbikes didn't benefit from the field visit programme.
- Some employees left the organization during this year 2020
- Epileptic children, Positive living children had challenges in accessing their medical treatment due to high transport costs.

### **ACTIONS TAKEN**

- The organization provided food to the children in the community.
- We provided seeds to the caretakers of our children and went ahead to train them modern farming methods.
- When we noticed that the children were dying, the department requested local authorities concerned to bring back the very needy children in the homes for home care support and offered all the necessary treatment. This saved the lives of a lot of children.
- To some children who were accessed with the help of motorbikes we started the field visit program by teachers, therapists and social workers.
- We supplied beddings to the children in the community. Children were sleeping on the floor and didn't have beddings like mattresses, bed sheets, blankets and mosquito net.
- We distributed holiday packages to all learners and different learning materials.
- Our social workers created more awareness in families about SOPs.

Both our nurses in Busunju and Mubende division started visiting children who were sick in the field and offered them treatment services.



Special needs children back at CB school in Zigoti



Beddings for children with special needs



Food distibution als in the special needs departement really helped the mos needy ones.



The plastering program took place at childrens homes during lockdown



# 3.5. PORRIDGE AND MONITORING PROGRAM-ME IN GOVERNMENT AIDED SCHOOLS

# A – BENEFITING SCHOOLS IN PORRIDGE PRO-GRAMME:

Mityana district 46 schools Mubende district 14 schools

# B – BENEFITING SCHOOLS IN MONITORY PRO-GRAMME:

Mityana district 56 schools Mubende district 20 schools

Under the porridge programme, in 2020 we supplied **13,021** kgs of maize flour in Mityana and **9,366** kgs in Mubende, totaling **22,387** kg of maize flour. This programme aims to reduce the absenteeism rate of learners and save children from hunger while at school. Our field officers check on teachers' presence and preparation and write reports which are sent to district officials after each term. The district reacts to these reports by warning non-performers (or even cutting salaries) and boosting best-performers.

»Beginning of term exams« is another programme we run in Mityana and Mubende Districts: all 156 schools in Mityana District these exams on the second day of term, plus 20 schools in Mubende district. This programme aims to increase the number of pupils and teachers in the schools on the first day of each term. Due to Covid-19 this program only worked at the beginning of term1 in 2020. Therefore our field officers took over new responsibilities, mainly supporting the social work department.

### **ACTIVITIES**

- Delivered food support to supported families and ACFC schools.
- Bringing medicine to positive living children to and from the Hospitals since transport was restricted to a few people and sometimes took children and mothers to the hospital.

- Supervised teachers as they were carrying out home visits.
- Delivered seeds to supported families and monitoring on how they should be planted to enable caretakers get food.
- Typed and delivered study materials to pupils of government schools and also supported children in our schools.
- Made follow up on self-study materials ACFC provided to government aided schools to allow continuity of learning in the lockdown.
- Trained motorbikes to supported girls to enable them get skills for future jobs.
- Organised teachers workshops for ACFC teaching staff.



Porridge Program, distribution of learning packages



Workshop at Nakaziba nursery teachers college

## **CHALLENGES**

- Monitoring in government aided schools was affected due to the lock down.
- Illiteracy of some caretakers to comprehend to the measurements of seed planting.
- Poor storage of the self-study material by children at homes hindering proper evaluation by teachers.
- Some children delayed to complete their learning materials since they had to spend a lot of time in gardens.
- Inadequate learning materials for pupils in the communities.
- Remoteness of some areas where many learners failed to access the self study materials especially on televisions, news papers and radios.

## 3.6. WATER PROGRAMME

A CHANCE FOR CHILDREN drilled 2 boreholes in 2020. Since the programme started 65 boreholes have been drilled in different sub counties which help communities to get clean water and reduce absenteeism of learners due to carrying water long distances. All boreholes are drilled on community land and each community has to form a water committee which is responsible for care of the boreholes, reporting to our team when there are problems. Due to the lockdown drilling new borehols was stuck as movements were very restricted. However, the water team of ACFC managed to rehabilitate 163 in 2020 making a total of 245 rehabilited boreholes in Mityana, Mubende and Kasanda districts.



Children benfit a lot from the ACFC water programme



ACFC water team at work

# 3.7. CONSTRUCTION



Sites	No of buildings	rooms
1) ACFC Kalangalo classroom block completion	1	5
2) ACFC Kalangalo classroom block	1	5
3) ACFC Fencing of Nateete		
4) ACFC Fencing at Ttanda		
5) ACFC Fencing Kakindu ps		
6) Fencing new plot at headquarter		
7) ACFC Nakaziba vocational college extension		
8) ACFC Kamusene classroom blocks	2	7
9) ACFC Kamusenene staff house	1	20
10) ACFC Kamusenene kitchen and dinning	1	3
11) ACFC Kamusenene nursery block	1	3
12) ACFC Kamusenene pit latrines	2	13
13) ACFC Ttanda classroom block completion	1	3
14) ACFC Butimba completion of a primary school	3	12
15) ACFC Butimba pit latrine	1	8
16) Renovaton of Butimba nursery block		
17) Nateete Workshop completion	1	4
18) Nkozi staff house	1	22



**Building site Nkozi** 



Inside school for all Busunju



**Buidling site Ttanda** 

## 3.8. LAND ACQUISITION

- Plots at Kalangalo
- Land Gomba 32 arcres

# 3.8. College of Practical Skills in Nakaziba

After two years of construction most work was finalized in 2020. The place hosts a big vocational training college with space for workshop training rooms, classrooms, a big kitchen, a dining area, a big verandah which serves both as a dining area and a meeting place. 4 buildings offer accommodation for staff and students. Set in a bit of a distance of the vocational part of the land the newly established college for nursery teachers found a home together with a big kindergarten for the children of the villages around. Both the college and the nursery school started in 2020.

The vocational training program started off well in 2020 with courses on solar energy, basics of electricity, plastic recycling, cooking and most of all modern farming.



Nakaziba modern farming



The big kitchen at Nakaziba



Plastic cups made out of old plastic



Computer and physics workshop in Nakaziba



After five months the fingerling became a big fish ready to eat



Larvae fed from bio waste serves as chicken and fish feeds



Children at Nakaziba nursery school

A fish and larvae project started off well and was conducted throughout 2020 with reasonable success. Furthermore, the drip irrigation and a wider irrigation system for a big part of the farming land was established.

Staff stationed at Nakaziba includes several farmers, teaching staff of the college and the nursery school, a matron for students on ground, a cook and a manager for the entire area.



Martin started the fish and larvae project in Nakaziba



Nursery teachers Caroline and Liz preparing teaching aids

# 4. CHALLENGES OF THE WORK OF ACFC IN 2020.

- ✓ Lock down due to COVID19 which led to a standstill of our activities especially schools.
- Dropout of many children from the program due to several reasons, f.i. shifting of families but also need of child labor to increase on family budget.
- Increasing number of requests for support from the community due to poverty and changing seasons.
- Limited number of trainees in our nursery training college.
- Transport hindrances especially to positive living mothers and children which hindered them to acquire their medication in time.
- Food insecurity especially among the needy families.
- Lack of access to learning materials for some learners due to poverty since they were not easily accessed as the families do not have television, radios and news papers.
- Unwanted pregnancies due to insecurity in the communities which resulted into school drop out.
- Scarcity of basic needs due to increased expenditures since many people ran away from towns to villages hence increasing the demand.
- Poverty due to closure of most of the businesses.
- School terms were shortened for candidate classes and this might affect their performance in their final exams.

### **5. FUTURE STEPS**

- 1. Maintain effective service delivery in all established organization programmes/projects.
- 2. Increase local production and stop purchasing local food in the organization.
- 3. Continue to carryout good protection and use of organization land by fencing our land.
- 4. Ensure quality services (i.e. education) to beneficiaries .
- 5. Starting vocational college at Nakaziba.
- 6. Set up an inclusive school at Nkozi.
- 7. Set up a secondary school in Kalangalo.
- 8. Extending pads workshop trainings to government aided schools.
- 9. Repairing boreholes and construction of protected springs to communities in need.
- 10. Providing housing support to the most needy supported families.
- 11. Provide more support to children in need.
- 12. Extension of Nateete girls dorm.
- 13. Putting in place standard operating procedures to prevent COVID in our schools.
- 14. Carrying out sensitization and awareness about COVID in communities and schools.



**Teachers workshop in January** 

#### 6. CONCLUSION

A CHANCE FOR CHILDREN

A CHANCE FOR CHILDREN has managed to maintain all its programmes and put more on the ground even in this challenging year due to COVID 19. Many Organisations suffered and many employees were given forced leave without pay, teachers in most private schools have suffered the whole period without pay but this has not been the case with us, our funding Organization stood with us by supporting us in all what we have listed above, thanks goes to you our funding organization KINDERN EINE CHANCE (KEC) and to all our our Austrian friends, management and leaders of A Chance for Children plus the staff and pupils for their united efforts, we can't risk to forget the local government officials who comes to our aid whenever we are in need.

Nabulimu Betty, ACFC Coordinator

Lukango Ceasar, ACFC Chairman



Social worker from Nateete teaching a parent how to measure land for planting



