

2020 Fall Report



TRANSFORMING Uganda, One Village at a Time

MEDICAL CARE || EVANGELISM || EDUCATION || CLEAN WATER || ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT || COUNSELING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FOREWORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's my utmost pleasure and joy to present our Annual Report covering October 2019 to October 2020. Despite this year's uniqueness and unprecedented circumstances due to COVID-19, we have, nonetheless, continued to learn and adapt while at the same time remaining focused, steadfast, and unrelenting in bringing hope, empowerment, holistic transformation, and spreading GOD's unconditional love to our people.

I cannot think of a better way to share our year than share these few quotes and stories from our people in the communities.

"When Corona came and our schools closed, we thought that was the end of it, but our teachers have continued to come home to teach us and involve our parents, and at times we study with our parents which is really encouraging. My mother can now also count 1,2,3,4...in English," exclaims little Juliet Namukose of P.2 at Bulike Primary Christian School.

"I am so, so happy that a boy like me from Idoome can now operate these machines and drill water for my community. It's a dream come true. My community now has safe water and enough even to wash our hands and fight COVID 19," says Eric who has been trained through our partnership with the ministry of water and environment as a drilling technician.



With your generous support, we have strived towards maximum impact with the resources entrusted to us to make measurable differences in the lives of thousands of individuals whom we are serving. We continue to help them live fuller and more productive lives, empowered to contribute to their community's transformation, thus generating broader socio-economic benefits for entire communities while working towards self-sustainability of UCSS.

With your prayers, we rose to the challenge that COVID-19 presented to us and kept ourselves relevant by providing responsive and innovative interventions while building resilience in communities. We believe that the aspirations and actions set in motion this year will greatly influence what's to come next in the years ahead and in the face of any such pandemics as experienced in 2020. Thank you for improving lives and expanding God's kingdom.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Conducted home studies for 1,025 enrolled pupils and students in primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions as a dynamic response to the pandemic that had made it impossible to meet in larger groups. This innovative nature of teaching ensured that UCSS remained relevant and true to its commitment of transforming communities through holistic education.

Invested a cumulative total number of 10,202 hours in homeschooling, and 2,000 booklets of training materials have been distributed thus far by our teachers as they went to the community to teach and train our students at their homes. This is being done while implementing the Ministry of Health Standard Operating Procedures and guidelines and involving parents in their children's education.

Drilled 12 more water wells in Bulike and Buluya communities to increase alternative water points, reduce congestion at the water points, and curb community spread of COVID 19; as a result, there has not been a single case reported in the communities that we are serving.

Procured and installed loudspeakers (community radios) in strategic centers to teach, counsel, inform, and disseminate information on emerging issues and concerns such as COVID 19. We have used these platforms to preach the gospel too.

Through our agriculture community outreach, 120 households were allocated spaces on our farms to grow crops and feed their families. Two hundred fifty families received seeds. The pastors set up seven horticulture demonstration gardens and trained 1,200 farmers in the communities. The agriculture groups planted 16,000 trees and adequately maintained 43,000 older trees. There has also been an increased harvest this year than the previous year.

Increased medical facilities in terms of capacity and infrastructure. We have six full-time staff, four village health teams, and one drug dispensary to serve Liberty Christian Secondary School students, Buluya Christian Primary School students, their families, and the community. Began construction on a building to accommodate patients who require inpatient care.





Our Evangelism and Counseling teams have steadfastly continued to provide spiritual and emotional support to thousands of families during this depressing COVID season. We have witnessed hope increasing, marriages restored, and zero suicide cases have been reported.

Conducted three development programs for our staff through retreats. As a result, our staff has gained new skills and competencies to perform their tasks more efficiently and effectively.

Our teams continue to grow and improve with increased accountability, adherence to standard operating procedures, timely reporting, and following systems and procedures.

Built formidable partnerships and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with local governments, as well as with key government ministries, the private sector and other non-governmental organizations in the districts we are operating.

Established a Community and Committee Engagement Department to coordinate and strengthen existing committee structures, encourage more community participation, and enhance program impact. The department has hit the ground running, and we are now witnessing more commitment from committee members.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

AGRICULTURE

The agriculture department's goal is that none of our people should die of hunger, that no children will be malnourished, and that we conserve the environment for future generations. We promote self-sustainability by giving people the tools and skills they need to grow their own food and earn their own income. We believe that they, too, must have and find an equal chance at life and a great environment for their existence.

This goal has been profound in our hearts as we have worked on the eight existing farms that have been set up to demonstrate the best of modern farming practices, spearhead conservation of the environment, and promote food security.

PROGRESS

Over 16,000 trees have been planted to conserve the environment. We have planted trees throughout our farms, churches, schools, healthcare facilities, and the community.

We have 48 goats and nine cows that we are rearing for meat and milk.

Our teams performed consistent maintenance of our farms through routine activities like weeding, spraying, and pruning to increase production.

Implemented a project in collaboration with Syngenta - a private sector company in agriculture.

Improved sustainability of the agriculture department and farmers due to relatively fair prices this year.

What You Can Help Us Accomplish

Acquire a juice processing unit so that we can make juice to sell and add value to our products.

Give cows! We would like to add four milking cows this year to serve the planned milk processing industry.

Help us build up a furniture industry and put up a timber yard to sell posts from our commercial trees.



**WE HAVE
PLANTED OVER
16,000 TREES!**

EDUCATION

Education is one of the best ways to transform rural communities who often have no access. Through our three institutions, Bulike Christian Primary School, Liberty Christian Secondary School, and Bulike Community Polytechnic, we have continued to provide quality and Christ-centered holistic education that is learner-centered to 1,025 students. With an emphasis on building the right foundations for community development, we continue to use innovative teaching methods to impart modern skills to our students to produce grounded and well-rounded individuals, agents of change, and pillars of transformation for our communities' sustainable development.

PROGRESS

One hundred forty additional students were admitted across our three institutions, bringing the total number of students we are impacting to 1,025.

Significant infrastructure development has taken place at all the three institutions. The hostel at Liberty Christian Secondary School is at 90% completion. A lab and bookshelves were constructed to store lab equipment and textbooks.

We were able to acquire two more acres of land for the school, part of which is the land on which the hostel is located. This gives us more space to enroll more students.

Staff implemented a holistic and competency based curriculum that is being used at all our institutions. A number of club activities including debates, sports, scripture union, and health talks have been done and are part of the schools timetable.

Partnerships and visits from the "MAD" Mission Team, Cornerstone Church, and Innovation Africa have added value in knowledge, skills and shared experiences.

The discipline of our learners has tremendously improved. This has been achieved through guidance and counseling and spiritual empowerment obtained through the Christian Club practices.

A water well was drilled at Liberty Christian Secondary School to support running water to the laboratories and for general use by the students and teachers at school.

Liberty Christian Secondary School had their first lot of Senior 4 (S.4) candidates sitting for National Examinations this year and posted the best results in Kaliro District. This progress resulted from the quality time and efforts invested in our students with your help.

The playing field at Bulike School was leveled and planted with paspalum/cover grass to conduct co-curricular activities.

Refresher courses for our teachers were done to impart prerequisite skills and improve their readiness to facilitate the lower secondary school's newly rolled out curriculum.

What You Can Help Us Accomplish

We want our schools to be centers of excellence in holistic education and model schools in Uganda. We plan to improve learners' academic excellence, modify the playing field to standard, and unify the teachers' corporate wear and the school uniform.

Giving toward education will allow us to build safer buildings and fencing around the school and improve education standards.

Our goal is that our schools become self-sustainable and establish income generating projects such as poultry, piggery, goats, and farming. You can help us by purchasing farm animals for the students.





**UCSS schools
are impacting
1,025 students.**



TALES OF TRANSFORMATION
The story of Denis and Briquettes.

When Denis - 13 years old - enrolled at Liberty Community Secondary School, one of his very first lessons was on environmental protection and development. He had heard the geography teacher bellow and cry over the need to conserve the environment. At the end of his class, the geography teacher had expressed hope that indeed one of these young students in Senior 1 (S.1) would salvage the situation. He wasn't mistaken, for his lesson had aroused the creativity and ingenuity in one of his students - Denis.

Denis rose up to the challenge and decided that even his grandchildren and many generations after would find the environment safe and good to use. He thought of a way to conserve the environment by providing and encouraging people to use alternative sources of fuel other than firewood. That's how the idea of Briquettes came about.

Today, Denis is producing over 600 kgs of briquettes every week, and about 120 households have begun to use briquettes instead of firewood. He earns an average of UGX100,000 which is an equivalent of \$26.92 in American dollars per week which he says helps to take care of the family needs and contribute to his school fees.

Such are the change makers that UCSS is producing and seeks to produce in thousands of others to bring about sustainable development in our communities.

**Purchase Farm
Animals for
Students**
\$60 per goat
\$180 per cow

[Purchase an Animal](#)



**Sponsor a Student,
Change a Life Forever**

If you'd like to make a personal impact in the life of a child while uplifting a whole community, become a sponsor today! You can be the light to a child in Uganda, showing them they are not alone, and encouraging them to become all that God designed them to be.



[Sponsor a Student](#)

HEALTH

Nana Health Center has grown to serve and served to grow. We are now providing more community health information, giving health care to more people, and have extended services to Buluya. With our community outreaches and a network of Village Health Teams, our coverage has increased enormously and is reducing preventable diseases and increasing healthy living.

PROGRESS

Over 3,830 patients were diagnosed and treated - mostly for malaria - and screened for other diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis B, typhoid, and pneumonia.

Five hundred fifty-eight mothers attended antenatal care and family planning services.

The Village Health Teams visited over 480 homes and provided crucial information about hygiene.

The digging and construction of the placenta pit was completed and is now ready for use.

More beds were purchased and added to the patient ward which has helped improve the management and monitoring of critical patients.

Several education talks were carried out at Nana and conducted outreaches to educate people on several health related issues including Hepatitis B, proper sanitation, COVID-19, among others.

More staff was recruited including a clinical officer and an accounting officer who joined us in May.

Inventory of medical supplies has been carried out monthly in the store and weekly in pharmacies of Bulike and Buluya clinics.

Clinic registration with the Ministry of Health was completed. The registration process of the clinic with the Medical Bureau is ongoing, and we hope that it will be a success.

We received tree seedlings from the agriculture department which were planted around Nana's compound to provide shade and beauty.



What You Can Help Us Accomplish

We wish to introduce more services such as maternity care, dental, scanning and optical services as well as the recruitment of more staff of different specialties to provide these services.

We have made plans to improve the clinic infrastructures i.e. more wards and staff quarters but need the funding to accomplish this goal.

There is a need to have an emergency transport for patients needing urgent care. We can provide this service with tricycle bikes and an ambulance.

Our goal is to upgrade Nana Health Center to level three, which will require structural and staffing improvements.

Since the goal is self-sustainability, we plan to build income creating projects and implement an Insurance System.

The Buluya dispensary is serving many people in the community with life saving medicine, but we need to purchase land to make this service permanent.

In order to operate a full service medical laboratory, we need to have running water to be used in the maternity ward and the laboratory.

 The UCSS medical department has served over 3,830 patients this year.

WATER

More than ever before, water is not only essential for life but also has proved to be a game-changer in the control of the unprecedented COVID-19 Virus. As every family and home was required to have a handwashing platform, the water department rose to the challenge and met our communities' water needs. We drilled more water wells and extended our services to communities that didn't have or that needed additional water points. In collaboration with Innovation Village, we drilled and set up piped water infrastructure to reach the overly populated trading centers.

PROGRESS

Approximately 160,000 people had access to safe, clean and abundant water in the three districts of Kaliro, Buyende, and Luuka this year.

Teams drilled 12 additional water wells in Kigge's site Buluya, Pr. Nathan's site Buluya, Buyingo, Bukunya, Busiki, Gumpi, Busubo, Butoli, Innula, and Sembella's site Idoome.

Water drilling teams effectively maintained the wells through monthly monitoring and upkeep.

We collaborated with the Ministry of Water and Environment to recruit and train seven drilling technicians from the communities we serve.

We acquired a compressor truck to help transport the drilling equipment. This acquisition has enabled us to do work much quicker than before.

A drilling permit was obtained, and we are in the process of formalizing our relationship with the Ministry of Water.

What You Can Help Us Accomplish

Every well we drill provides life-saving water for hundreds of families. We plan to continue drilling and hiring more staff to upkeep and drill new wells. When you give to our water well projects it is a very tangible way to provide hope and give people life.



For \$3,500 you can fully fund a water well for 400 families.

Clean Water Changes Everything

[Build a Well](#)



TALES OF TRANSFORMATION Kimbaya Community

Before drilling a water well at Baligeya's site in the Kimbaya community, the reported cases of disease infection in children and adults were over 120 every week. This is not the case anymore; rather, we see economic activities blossoming in this community.

Mr. Charles now harvests twice the amount of tomatoes as before because of water availability to irrigate his crops. Juma, a young man troubled with these communicable and water-borne diseases, is now a healthy, energetic, and vibrant young man using the water source near him to make mortar/bricks to build houses. He is currently earning some money to take care of himself and his family.

EVANGELISM

Ministry teams have been working in the community to ensure that people have hope throughout these challenging times. We have been working hard to acquire motorbikes for ministry leaders to reach people in rural areas, and we are seeing leaders rise to the challenge and reach people with the love of Christ.

PROGRESS

Ministry teams planted one more church at Nakalongo in March, bringing our number of churches to thirteen.

Routine and dynamic counseling was conducted at churches for families to build and strengthen broken marriages.

Thirty pastors were trained through our Mobile Bible College, giving them the tools to reach their communities.

Pastors are now involved in other UCSS departments and have helped to develop projects and build better systems while providing spiritual direction and leadership counseling.

Helping ministry was conducted by pastors at their individual churches where people received clothes, food, and outreach.

Projects to enhance the earning potential of the church members were initiated including the women's project, the pastor's project, and the youth project.

Consistent Sunday church altars were conducted every Wednesday and Sunday from April to August during lockdown, as well as home daily altars to keep the altar burning.

A total of 1,000 trees were planted around the churches that have land.

What You Can Help Us Accomplish

We hope to buy more church land for expansion;-, churches give people a safe place to come to and help develop the community.

We would like to improve church structures and get seats for individual churches.

Income generating projects need to be initiated and strengthened to increase self-sustainability for individual pastors, women ministry, youth, and churches.

The youth programs across all churches need to be strengthened.



We have now planted
thirteen
churches!

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

At the heart of the UCSS mission is the improvement in quality of life for the people we serve. One way we accomplish this is by training people and giving them the skills they need to earn an income and manage their businesses. Throughout this year, we have worked to build sustainable, resilient, and empowered livelihoods. Through our economic model and approach, we have organized our members into economic groups. Using a participatory approach, we have initiated economic ventures and projects to generate income.

PROGRESS

We currently have 53 active groups with 11, 435 members, implementing various economic activities such as poultry, rearing of cattle and pigs, goat keeping, growing bananas, tomatoes, ground nuts, tree nursery bed raising, citrus growing, tailoring and making of crafts.

We completed the renovation of the tailoring structure to enhance vocation studies.

Nine village saving groups are actively saving and have banked with the field accountant.

Installation of the rice and maize milling machines has been completed.

We conducted financial literacy sessions in business and management planning to equip members with more skills.

We received five sewing machines to be given to five groups as a way of promoting the community.

More knowledge and experience in beekeeping was gained after visiting several bee farmers, and we hope to start a new one.

We acquired a five bulb solar system at the tailoring dormitory.



What You Can Help Us Accomplish

We have made plans to build machinery to help create new industrial projects such as juice processing and a grain industry; giving to economic development will help us support this new venture.

Our goal is to industrialize the tailoring section, promote skills like welding, hairdressing, carpentry, and continue building skills, and doing this requires people and capital.

We encourage all our community members to start up income generating projects and apply the acquired financial literacy skills; please join us in praying for wisdom and guidance.

COUNSELING

Mental health counseling services through UCSS are helping people become healthier and self-sufficient. Our Mental Health Facilitators (MHFs) provide community members with the tools to handle life situations and build better lives. We provide in-home, field, and in-office counseling as well as services for the students through the schools. This group works closely with the health department, evangelism teams, and leadership trainers to bring positive mental health practices and support to the communities.

PROGRESS

Over 250 clients were counseled through individual, group and couple counseling sessions. A client who tested positive for HIV through Nana health center was counseled and referred to start on the ARVs.

We conducted an outreach about HIV/AIDS awareness in the community.

Four group sessions about HIV/AIDS were conducted to a total number of 130 people who were counseled, tested, and given their HIV test results.

Follow-ups were made for all clients including those with HIV and Hepatitis B positive related challenges.

Counseling at interdepartmental level, counseled 176 people in different churches by Mental Health Facilitators (MHF) and pastors on different issues including spiritual, economic development, education guidance, psychosocial support, grief counseling, and many others areas which have impacted people's mental health.

We worked with cluster leaders at sub county levels to enable us to serve the people in different communities.

What You Can Help Us Accomplish

You can help us equip individuals and groups with counseling skills to become effective problem solvers through conducting group sessions, individual counseling, making referrals, and follow-ups.

We need start up income generating activities to foster the departments activities, with two options: mobile money agent and agent banking.

We plan to set up a mental health hotline to offer counseling services to people who cannot access them in person; this will require new resources.

We are working to create information programs to foster awareness at the community level about the predisposing factors to poor mental health and how to take action to become healthier. Resources given toward counseling will help us achieve these important goals.



UCSS Mental Health Care Facilitators have counseled over 250 clients this year.



HOW WE DO IT

Operational status

UCSS has a vibrant, knowledgeable and committed board both locally and internationally who have given of their time, expertise, and resources to provide leadership and direction to UCSS. We are fully registered with the Uganda NGO board and are in compliance with all local operational requirements.

Local Staffing

The operations in Uganda were carried out by over 67 persons (40 teaching and support staff, six medical, ten operations, and over 50 volunteers in evangelism, economic group, model farm projects). UCSS's Executive director, Dr. Ronald Kaluya has this team which complements him in meeting the UCSS vision and mission.

Weekly staff meetings and monthly departmental meetings are held every first week of the preceding month and management meetings quarterly to discuss the progress of each program to increase accountability and productivity. The community committees are a key part of the UCSS ministry and continue to play a big part in ensuring that all UCSS activities meet the needs of the community and that there is community involvement and investment to ensure effective transformation.





YOU ARE HELPING TRANSFORM UGANDA

In this time of global uncertainty, it is good to hear & see testimonies such as evidenced in this report. We wanted to let you know that your prayers for UCSS are availing much, that your donations are providing life! God's word never returns void, but always does what He purposes for it to do.

Friend, we are certain of this, that God is not finished here in Bulike & Buluya. Thank you for standing with us with your prayers and support. You, our faithful supporters, make stories like this possible. It's your generosity and prayers that allow us to bring joy and hope to these lives.

Your generosity is felt and appreciated by everyone in these communities and we are so grateful.

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