

# CELEBRATING A DECADE OF DEVELOPMENT

WITH UGANDA COUNSELING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

SPRING 2021 REPORT  
10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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# FOREWORD AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The July 2020 – April 2021 Progress Report is aimed at giving a comprehensive review of our 10 months' work as Uganda Counseling and Support Services in sustainability, empowering, transforming, and improving the quality of life of our people and spreading the love of GOD to the rural communities in Uganda, one village at a time. Through our holistic approach, we have continued to work towards meaningfully impacting lives spiritually, emotionally, and physically through our programs in Evangelism, Counseling, Agriculture, Health, Economic Empowerment, Education, and Water.

The ministry, in the face of COVID -19, has worked to remain relevant and is impacting lives by great strides in the past 10 months. Our teams have remained steadfast and relentless in reaching out to our people, building resilience and tenacity while keeping our communities healthy and buoyant. With our core values of Christ centeredness, self-sustainability, community involvement and holistic approach, the year 2021 also marks 10 years of ministry for Uganda Counseling and Support Services, a story of passion, a story of GOD's love and faithfulness, a story of transformation and empowerment, a story of great destinies being defined; a story of milestones and of great hope and a future.

From a community whose children walked miles to attain education exposing themselves to various issues like kidnapping, Bulike is now raising children with hope through education and is helping parents who can now see a bright future for their children and from the poverty patterns that have existed for generations. Children from Nursery to Senior Four have dared to dream and maximize their potentials. Tales of unclean water are slowly becoming distant memories in our communities.

Our programs in this reporting period have continued to provide excellent contributions that empower families and communities and have greatly improved the standards of living in these areas. Increase of services offered at the health center has enabled UCSS to track the prevalent conditions in the communities like malaria which has, overall, improved health in the community.

Evangelism and Counseling have grown tremendously over the past months because of the emphasis on Christian mentorship, discipleship, and counseling. Although emphasis was put on discipleship, through the various evangelistic programs, 307 souls have given their lives to Christ and have embarked on the journey of learning about the unconditional love of God revealed through Jesus Christ through the weekly Bible studies and leadership classes. The capacity of the leaders has been built through relevant training which has moved them out of their comfort zone and armed the community with skills for self-sufficiency and transformation. We are very grateful to GOD for His grace that has sustained us up to this point. We appreciate the support from all our friends in your respective capacities, who have demonstrated that when a community is holistically empowered, self-sufficiency is attainable. May the Lord bless you abundantly!

# HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- All three educational institutions were certified and cleared to reopen having met the required operating standards required by the government of Uganda. This followed tremendous work being done by the institutions to put in place Standard Operating Procedures.
- Thirty-seven candidates in Primary Seven at Bulike Christian Community Primary School and seventeen in Senior four at Liberty Christian Community College, Buluya (equivalent grade 10) successfully completed their National Examinations.
- An accommodation facility to house the Head Teacher at Bulike Christian Community Primary School and Head of Nana Health Centre is at 90% completion.
- Two more parcels of land have been bought and added to Liberty Christian Community College, Buluya for expansion and to give adequate space for learning.
- Our health centers have been engaged in maternity health; including Immunization, family planning and so far four babies have been delivered from Nana Maternity Wing which was introduced during this reporting period.
- Diagnosed and treated 2,484 patients, averaging 276 patients per month.
- Successfully conducted a Comprehensive Clinic and treated 425 patients from the surrounding communities of Buluya and Bulike.
- Twenty-eight days (the entire month of February) was spent in prayer and fasting as the entire community of UCSS joined in to pray for the ministry and various departments, bringing about great spiritual revival.
- Ten model farms have been established to date and are active centers of learning, knowledge, and technology transfer to farmers in the communities, reaching and impacting over 12,000 farmers in the communities of Bulike, Buluya, Ntayigirwa, and Mwangha.
- We have planted and maintained 29,225 trees to date as a way to encourage and promote reforestation and environment conservation in the communities. In addition, plans are to use this timber for furniture, construction and generating income.

- Ninety-four households without or with limited land were supported and allocated portions on our farms to grow crops as a way for them to have food and also to mutually manage our farms at a less cost. This mutually beneficial symbiotic relationship cuts our costs of maintenance by 65%.
- 1540 households have been supported to start family enterprises through financial literacy, common market for produce, financial assess, and these have increased family/household incomes by 30%.
- Fifty-eight economic empowerment groups (SACCOs) have to date been formed, rigorously monitored, and empowered to support individual financial growth.
- Fifty-three financial projects have been instituted, incubated, monitored, and grown to provide financial liberties to its members.
- A cumulative total of 65 water wells have been drilled in various communities across the three districts we are serving in.
- Safe, high quality drinking water is now accessible to 1325 households.
- GPS coordinates have been captured for all the water wells.
- We counseled an average of 415 clients every month.
- We have expanded to cover nine villages under our counseling services.
- Twelve counseling community outreaches have been done every month reaching and counseling over 2500 people.
- Twenty-five leaders have been raised through discipleship evangelism.
- A strong children's ministry has emerged with over 300 children won to the Lord and being disciplined to love the Lord Jesus supremely.
- In the last nine months, 432 church services have been conducted.
- In the last nine months, 540 Bible study sessions have been conducted.





# AGRICULTURE

The Agriculture Program is UCSS's means to ending hunger and improving nutrition, achieving food security, and promoting sustainable agriculture in the communities where we serve. It forms part of our self-sustainability strategy and tool to generate income to support organization's activities. We believe agriculture is an essential tool and vehicle in transforming rural lives and building prosperous communities, as well as, a key foundation for rural development and inclusive growth.

Our method of work has been to establish model farms in the heart of communities to facilitate knowledge transfer and enhance diffusion and impartation of modern methods of farming and technologies to local farmers, improve local productivity, and facilitate market linkages. We also improve farm production of the target population by supporting farmers to obtain improved planting materials and inputs, provide field visits to improve existing farming practices, promote farmer cooperative spirit through group initiatives for market access, collaborate with key private sector and government institutions for improved varieties as well as to improve tree coverage through individual and commercial tree planting.

The following have been our main achievements and notable challenges in the last nine months, along with our future plans.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Ten model farms have been established to date and are active centers of learning, knowledge and technology transfer to farmers in the communities, reaching and impacting over 12,000 farmers in the communities of Bulike, Buluya, Ntayigirwa, and Mwangha.
- Two more pieces of land were acquired: Mwangha Farm (13.2 acres) which is being established as a center of livestock breeding/fattening; the other piece will host the envisaged fertilizer plant and pesticides plant to further boost production.
- To date, 29,225 trees have been planted and maintained as a way to encourage and promote reforestation and environment conservation in the communities. In addition, plans are to use this timber for furniture, construction and generating income.
- On our farms, 36 trainings (4 sessions every month) have been conducted to teach and demonstrate best and modern farming methods including the bible scriptures.

- On our farms 94 households totaling to 564 persons without/with limited land were supported and allocated portions to grow crops as a way for them to have food and also to mutually manage our farms at a less cost. This mutually beneficial symbiotic relationship cuts our costs of maintenance by 65%.
- We have partnered with Bio Bloom Ltd – A Dutch company based in Uganda to produce organic pesticides and train farmers on effective control of pests and diseases on their farms. This is projected to reduce pests and disease incidence on our farms and neighboring farms by at least 70%, hence increasing productivity



## FUTURE PLANS

- Establish Mwangha Farm as a center of fattening and raising substantial income for the organization.
- Establish an organic fertilizer processing plant to serve the communities and the region in providing quality affordable crop boosters.
- Establish community tree nurseries to still encourage and promote tree planting in the communities.
- Add additional irrigation systems to fight drought.
- Find ways to reduce pests and diseases that have compromised the productivity of our farms and are affecting yield.



# HEALTH

For the last ten months, Nana Health Center and its subsidiary, Buluya Dispensary, have continued to deliver high quality health care services and improve the health and well-being of residents in the communities in which we serve. Tremendous efforts have gone into reducing the prevalence of preventable health outcomes thereby reducing family health care costs, closing health inequity and disparity gaps, and bringing closer high quality subsidized and affordable services to communities. Nana Health Center has emerged to be an epicenter of sustainable solutions to community health challenges bringing forth innovative solutions, treating diseases, and raising health awareness leading to thriving communities with an awakened desire to live healthier lives.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Diagnosed and treated 2,484 patients, averaging 276 patients per month.
- An average of 196 lab tests per month were done for a total of 1764 lab tests completed and diagnosed correctly.
- In the last nine months 702 babies were immunized and 333 people were vaccinated.

- An average of 247 homes per month were visited for a total of 2223 homes visited by the VHT's,
- We now have 39 members that have registered for the insurance program and pay a monthly charge.
- Through the Resource Mobilization Drive, Nana successfully partnered with Innovation Africa and now has a 24 hour lighting solar system enabling us to work day and night.
- In addition to providing maternity guidance and family planning since its introduction, in January 2021, Nana Maternity Wing has delivered 4 babies.
- We are at 70% completion of the medical staff housing for the Head of health facilities.





## FUTURE PLANS

- Acquire an ambulance for the health center.
- Install running water and upgrade solar energy for reliability in the maternity wing.
- Complete registration with the Medical Bureau for networking in order to help reduce running costs.
- Advance the insurance project to the first 1,000 community members as a means of self-sustainability.

## SPONSOR THE MEDICAL STAFF

Nana Health Center has emerged to be an epicenter of sustainable solutions to community health challenges bringing forth innovative solutions, treating diseases, and raising health awareness leading to thriving communities with an awakened desire to live healthier lives.

We are excited to introduce a new sponsorship program to you this year, that will directly impact lives in ways we haven't seen before. **Your sponsorship at just \$50 a month helps accomplish the future plans of the Health Ministry.**

Visit <https://ugandacss.org/ucss-sponsorships/> or scan the QR code to learn more and begin your sponsorship today!





# ECONOMICS

We have used the Economic Empowerment Program as our vehicle for promotion of sustainable livelihoods and a means to lift our people out of pathetic poverty and hopelessness. Through the 10 months we have designed activities to help and empower households with the ability to succeed and advance financially. We have trained women in entrepreneurial skills through group enterprise projects and have built youth livelihoods through socio economic initiatives, in addition to developing sustainable and profitable market structure for farmers through cooperative membership and through our self-help model, whereby we sign up families/households and train them how to run individual and group enterprises while at the same time being accountable to group leaders and members on their operations.

In the last nine months, great strides have been made in helping people come out of poverty as stipulated here below, despite the fact that we have had our fair share of challenges; nonetheless, our future plans are still very encouraging.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- To date, 58 economic empowerment groups (SACCOs) have been formed, rigorously monitored and empowered to support individual financial growth.
- We have instituted, incubated, monitored and grown 53 financial projects to provide financial liberties to its members.
- There have been four Financial Literacy Training sessions conducted and evaluated.
- Family household incomes have increased by 30% because 1540 households have been supported as they start family enterprises.
- Training and skilling opportunities for the youth have been established in our first vocational training center.
- So far, 23 youth have been skilled in tailoring as a livelihood skill and are earning an income.



Education remains our essential tool in enriching people's spiritual development and intellectual understanding of themselves and the world, raising productivity, creativity, entrepreneurial, and technological advances in order to secure economic and social progress. We strongly believe that education, in every sense is one of the fundamental factors of development. No community can achieve sustainable economic development without substantial investment in spiritual, relational, intellectual, physical and financial capital. Despite the pandemic disturbances, our three institutions: Bulike Community Christian Primary School, Liberty Christian Secondary School and Bulike Community Polytechnic, have continued to innovatively provide quality and Christ centered education that is learner centered and holistic.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

All three institutions were successfully certified to reopen after thorough inspection by the government having been found compliant with the standard operating procedures.



## BULIKE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

- We had 37 pupils sit for their final Primary Leaving Examinations successfully.
- A total of 128 home visits were made in the last nine months.
- Contributing towards feeding our students, 272kgs of maize and 27kgs of beans were collected.
- On average 105 pupils are visited in the teachers' outreaches in the communities every week.
- Every week, 77 schooling packages are distributed to aid home learning.
- We conducted one refresher teacher training session.
- We held two PTA meetings to encourage parents' involvement in the learning process of their children.
- Infrastructure development - The Head Teachers' house and Pit latrine are under construction.

## LIBERTY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Senior Four National Examinations were held in March, 2021 with 17 students successfully completing them.
- Over 90% of our students were reached with home learning by way of 28 outreach facilitations.
- Teaching materials for eight subjects were distributed weekly.
- Co-curricular activities (debate, Bible studies and counseling) are carried out every week.
- Self-sustainability projects are ongoing. Currently we have six goats, and ½ acre of bananas has been established.
- School expansion: Purchased two pieces of land (70ft. by 150ft.), 60ft. and 208 ft.

## JOIN OUR STUDENT SPONSORSHIP TEAM!

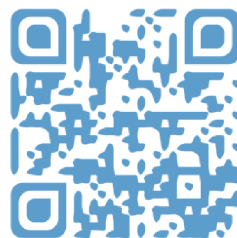
Ten years ago in this region of Eastern Uganda, there were no schools, there was no literacy, no medical care, and girls were married off around age 12. Yet today we have nearly 1,000 kids enrolled in our schools from preschool all the way through high school. Our girls' dormitory is helping girls stay in school and finish their education. When students get sick, they have access to our clinics to receive medical care. Nearby wells provide clean water, and our agriculture programs offer healthy meals during the school day.

To keep these programs going, we need help funding the teachers, doctors, nurses, and more who make all of this happen. That's why we have our Student Sponsorship Program, where \$25 a month can make a difference in one of these kids' lives, keeping them in school and keeping them healthy. As a sponsor, you'd give \$25 a month to support the ministries directly impacting your student.

Sign up online by scanning the QR code or visiting

## FUTURE PLANS

- Complete licensing and registering the schools for accreditation
- Engage parents and the community in school matters and participation.
- Construct a fence to protect our learners and the plants from intruders .
- Construct more dormitories and add beds to accommodate learners, especially as all classes open in August.
- Finish construction of teacher dorms and begin additional building upgrades such as a functioning kitchen and storage spaces.





# WATER

We have remained steadfast and dedicated in providing safe, high quality, reliable, and sustainable water supply to meet our communities, surrounding areas and partners present and future needs in an environmentally sensitive and economically responsible manner.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- A cumulative total of 65 water wells have been drilled in various communities.
- Safe, high quality drinking water is now accessible to 1325 households.
- GPS coordinates have been captured for all 65 wells.
- Each month, 13 monitory visits were done to ensure compliance and cleanliness.
- In various communities, 36 committee meetings were conducted.
- In conjunction with the Ministry of Water and Environment, seven community youths successfully completed and graduated the Water Drilling Course.



## SPONSOR THE WATER WELL STAFF

The Clean Water wells that UCSS has drilled over the last ten years serve thousands of families each day in rural Eastern Uganda. We are steadfast and dedicated in providing safe, high quality, reliable, and sustainable water supply to meet our communities, surrounding areas and partners, present and future needs in an environmentally sensitive and economically responsible manner.

Visit our website or scan the QR code to begin your sponsorship today!



## FUTURE PLANS

- Improve the work capacity of the drilling team.
- Identify more partners in the drilling ministry.
- Identify spare parts and service providers for broken machinery.
- Upgrade the drilling equipment so that water wells can be constructed faster.



# COUNSELING

Through our robust community Mental Health Facilitators (MHF) model, we have expanded and extended to nine villages in this period of nine months. Significant work has been done with our frontline MHF in the various villages where we are represented. These have continued to commit themselves to address and end the adverse effects of events that often take place in their communities.

We have registered quite a number of amazing success stories from children who have had adverse childhood experiences, to women with difficult marriages, and onto restoration of fathers to their fatherly roles. We have collaborated with schools and health centers to enrich their counseling departments and reach more clients.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- On average, 415 clients are counseled every month.
- We have expanded to cover nine villages under our services.
- Every month, 12 counseling community outreaches have been conducted.
- Hosted collaborative counseling with Nawai-koke and Nansololo Health Centers to reach out to more communities.

- We added four local village Council Women Representatives to our team of MHF.
- We conducted one capacity building seminar and workshop.

## FUTURE PLANS

- Online counseling to be started as soon as possible.
- Collaboration with other like minded agencies and increases in staffing.
- Primary building for the MHF.
- Invest in transportation methods for our grassroots MHF's





Despite the enduring lockdown restrictions and limitations with the open air crusades, our churches have not relented nor given up on the work of winning souls for Christ and discipling the saints. Our pastors, more than ever before, have given themselves to see that our people make spiritual progress. For the third time in row, the Evangelism Department graciously led the entire organization through a season of prayer and fasting that lasted the whole month of February. This special season of prayer brought about a great revival in our churches.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Great spiritual revival was brought about with 28 days of prayer and fasting spanning the whole month of February.
- Through discipleship evangelism, 25 leaders have been raised up for service.
- A strong children's ministry has emerged with over 300 children who were led to the Lord and are being disciplined to love the Lord Jesus supremely.
- In the last ten months, 432 church services have been conducted.
- In the last ten months, 540 Bible study sessions have been conducted.

- Nakalama Community Church, out of their means, reconstructed a church structure that had fallen. This is a beginning point and great hope for self-sustainability.
- Administrative offices have been established at 40% completion.
- The Pastors' Self-Help Sustainability Project is still in progress.

## FUTURE PLANS

- Evangelize with a goal to bring 800 souls to Christ by the end of the year.
- Disciple 200 people.
- Plant three churches by the end of the year and aid churches in the construction of damaged buildings.
- Purchase transportation means to reach remote areas.



# TRANSFORMATION STORY

From a Ganja Boy to Church Boy: The Change Story of Gaalya Sanon

## FROM A GANJA BOY TO CHURCH BOY: THE CHANGE STORY OF GAALYA SANON

The name Gaalya Sanon was associated with terror, theft, and marijuana smoking. It is what every community member in the Bulike community dreaded. Gaalya grew from a community vagabond to a community menace. From dropping from school at a tender age of 10 years, Gaalya ravaged the community and converted many other young children to become like him, a smoker of marijuana (Ganja), a thief, and an embodiment of disobedience.

The parents of Gaalya had long given up on such a young boy who went on a rampage and became so unruly at a tender age of 10. They had hoped for a miracle, but the miracle of transformation was long in coming. Despair replaced hope as the boy went from bad to worse until such a time, when during our evangelistic outreaches, one of our members in the evangelism team met him, preached the gospel, and took him up as his own child.

From that encounter with Jesus, the young man was radically transformed and the rest is now history. Sanon has gone on to be a community treasure and a very resourceful person in converting the wrong doers in the community. He stopped smoking marijuana, and his hair, that was once rastafarian, is now well kept and neat.

He is a pure testimony of the unconditional love of Jesus and the power in the gospel to transform. Sanon now dreams of becoming a pastor and one day going back to school.





# —MOBILIZATION—

In order to achieve a higher degree of organizational sustainability, a number of inherent efforts have been undertaken in the last 10 months to secure new and additional financial, human, and material resources alongside making better use of existing resources so as to attain our self-sufficiency goal.

We have taken deliberate efforts to broaden our funding base to reflect a hybrid of revenue streams from local contributions, corporate & public-private sector partnerships, corporate sponsors through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), grant writing, public sector subsidies, charitable contributions, and other investment mechanisms in the agriculture sector.

The Lord is blessing our efforts so far with showers of blessings, and we believe for greater down pours in the area of Resource Mobilization which will allow for a diversification of risk and not threaten the effective implementation of critical programs that improve the quality of life of our people.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Highly resourceful partnership with Innovation Africa that resulted in the installation of a 24 hour solar power system at Nana Health Center, Bulike Community Christian Primary School, and at Liberty Community Christian College. The installation of these systems has enabled Nana to attend to patients even at night, and students performance at both schools has tremendously shot up due to extension of reading hours.
- James Farm now boasts an irrigation system that allows year round production. The irrigation system is again a result of partnership between Uganda Counseling and Support Services and Innovation Africa.
- As part of giving back to ministry friends and individuals who have been resourceful and supportive to us as a ministry, six water wells have been drilled. These wells have been drilled across Uganda in Mbale, Mbarara, Jinja, Luweero, Wakiso.

- We have entered into partnerships with the local governments of the districts where we are currently serving. Two Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with Luuka and Buyende Districts.
- Received a donation of UGX 5,000,000 (USD \$1351) from Worship Harvest Ministries as a gift towards the work that's going on in the communities of Buluya and Bulike.
- Keynote addresses/lectures in our leadership classes were given by eight resourceful individuals/industry experts.
- Entered into partnership with the Ministry of Water to train local youth in the communities we are serving to become water drilling technicians.
- We have partnered with Stanbic Bank, the biggest bank in Uganda, to offer financial literacy classes to our economic empowerment groups.
- A grants unit headed by our Grants Director has been established as a fully fledged unit with a mandate of writing and winning calls for proposals.
- Thirty-five staff have signed up for local collection contributions. These have willingly and voluntarily accepted to remit a certain amount of money to UCSS.
- Successfully renewed and obtained a five year operational permit until 2025 from the government of Uganda, an indicator of our good conduct before the government.

## FUTURE PLANS

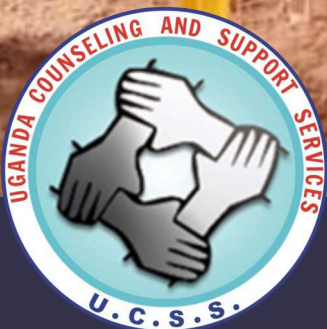
- Training/skilling of key staff in our departments in high level resource mobilization skills to leverage on the existing gap.
- Improving on the existent resource mobilization strategy to attain more results.
- Implementation of self-sustainability projects in each department.
- Add additional capacity to this department to find grants and find speaking engagements that will aid in developing projects and collaboration.



For booking or grant suggestions please email [ucss@ugandacss.org](mailto:ucss@ugandacss.org)

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING UGANDA COUNSELING AND SUPPORT SERVICES OVER THE LAST DECADE. WE CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!

We are so grateful that you have taken the time to read over this exciting report and look forward to connecting with you. For more information on UCSS, our ministries, and how you can get involved in our mission to transform Uganda, please visit our website. As always, you can email us at [ucss@ugandacss.org](mailto:ucss@ugandacss.org) with any questions or comments you may have. You can follow UCSS on social media and subscribe to our monthly newsletter for the most up-to-date information about all our projects.



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