

UGANDA ANNUAL REPORT | 2020



REACH US



World Vision Uganda



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Message from the Board Chair

The year has been one in which World Vision has made significant progress despite the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis.

Whilst the pandemic interrupted workflows, the Board quickly adapted to the new normal and scheduled extraordinary sessions to guide management in addressing the emerging humanitarian situation.

I commend the Board Members for their commitment, effort and keen interest to see World Vision sustain its promise to the vulnerable children of Uganda.

This year also marked the end of the 2016-2020 strategic implementation cycle, from which we have witnessed remarkable achievements across the various sectors that World Vision supports in the country. Key highlights include: an increase in the number of children who can read effectively by Primary Six (P6); an increase in access and utilisation of health services; and, comprehensive water and sanitation access across World Vision Area Programmes. World Vision has also sustainably supported families to increase family level food production. Above all, the Board is impressed with the progress attained in addressing all forms of violence against children.

The Board has actively supported the completion and adoption of a new National Strategy, which we believe will strongly guide World Vision Uganda's Ministry for the next five years (2021-2025). The new strategy comes into force against the backdrop of a re-alignment of mindsets and behaviors across the organisation towards our our organizational Vision: "For every child, to live life in all its fullness".

The Board has also worked to strengthen policies and frameworks for Child and Adult Safeguarding, as well as establishing zero tolerance parameters against fraud and corruption.

Every year, the Board reflects on the results from the "OurVoice" employee engagement survey and guides on actions to make World Vision a worthwhile choice for talent as a workplace. The 2019/2020- scores indicated a 100 percent score for staff willing to recommend to family and friends to join World Vision as employees, supporters or donors.

For the new fiscal year (FY21), the Board will work towards:

- ▶ Leveraging networks for local resource mobilisation.
- ▶ On-boarding of "Friends of World Vision" and brand ambassadors in consultation with key stakeholders.
- ▶ Guiding management in the continued alignment of the National Office to the global "Our Promise" strategy.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our donors, the Government of Uganda, children, their families and communities for all the support they have given to the Ministry. My profound gratitude goes to management and staff for the cordial relations we have enjoyed which have enabled us to advance the Ministry of World Vision in Uganda.

We pledge our support to World Vision as it expands its ability to respond with agility to new challenges.

MRS. SUSAN B. LUBEGA
Chair, Board Of Directors



Message from the National Director

How would you describe the year 2020 in one word? Surreal, relentless, lost, chaotic, exhausting, maybe even heartbreaking? 2020 was no doubt an extremely challenging year for our families, organisations, national and global economies.

Just like most other organisations, the impact on our operations was real due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, World Vision was born out of crisis over 70 years ago during the Korean War, which has left us with an unshakable resolve; to bring about life in all its fullness for the world's most vulnerable children.

Thanks to our passionate and dedicated staff, we were quick to adapt and implement an emergency COVID response programme. This enabled us to reach more than 1.8 million Ugandans with COVID related interventions in health, livelihoods, education, and protection.

With a portfolio of more than 130,000 sponsored children, we are deeply appreciative for the generous hearts of World Vision supporters all around the world who are contributing towards the work in Uganda. This includes the launch of an exciting new Area Programme in Omugo, which has been innovatively designed to benefit both refugee and host community children. In addition, through solid partnerships with government donors such as the European Union (EU) and its humanitarian arm (ECHO), we have been able to support thousands of families displaced by severe flooding, as well as launch a substantial new project designed to support the food security and livelihoods of refugee and host community families within the West Nile region.

Knowing that a better world for children is not something we can achieve alone, we have intensified our advocacy activities in partnership with other key stakeholders. In particular, we have sought to amplify the voices of children in a push to end violence against them. In light of this, a World Vision sponsored child, Maria, gained an opportunity to raise awareness of the issues children face in Uganda at the EU in Brussels, as part of the World Vision International Young Leaders Programme. Additionally, we have helped communities advocate for better service delivery in the areas most important to them, such as education, health legislation, and public infrastructure. At a national level, we have worked tirelessly to advance the formation of legislation that condemns human trafficking and sacrifice, and pray that these will be passed by the Parliament in due course.

September 2020 saw the end of World Vision Uganda's 5-year national strategy cycle (FY16-20). It is encouraging to report that over the period of the strategy, more than 4 million children have benefitted from health & nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and peace & protection programmes. We are now embarking on a new 5-year strategy cycle (FY21-25), which has been carefully designed with the participation of children and is strongly aligned to World Vision's "Our Promise" global strategy. We are confident that this new national strategy will enable us to go even further in achieving greater impact for Uganda's most vulnerable children.

We are grateful for the productive and collaborative relationships with the Ugandan Government through the Office of the Prime Minister, line ministries, institutions, and districts, as well as our partner Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and civil society organizations.

And finally, I want to thank our dedicated Board of Directors and all of our staff and volunteers, who serve wholeheartedly, pressing forward to help create positive futures for Ugandan children.

JASON EVANS
National Director



We are World Vision

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities to reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice through development, relief, and advocacy. In Uganda, World Vision's work spreads across 48 districts with long-term developmental support in health and nutrition, resilience and livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, child protection and emergency response.

World Vision collaborates with communities, sponsors, donors, corporate organisations, and the Government to reach the most vulnerable children because we believe every child deserves life in all its fullness. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

Our Mission

Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness.
Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.

Our Vision

World Vision is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God.

Our Core Values

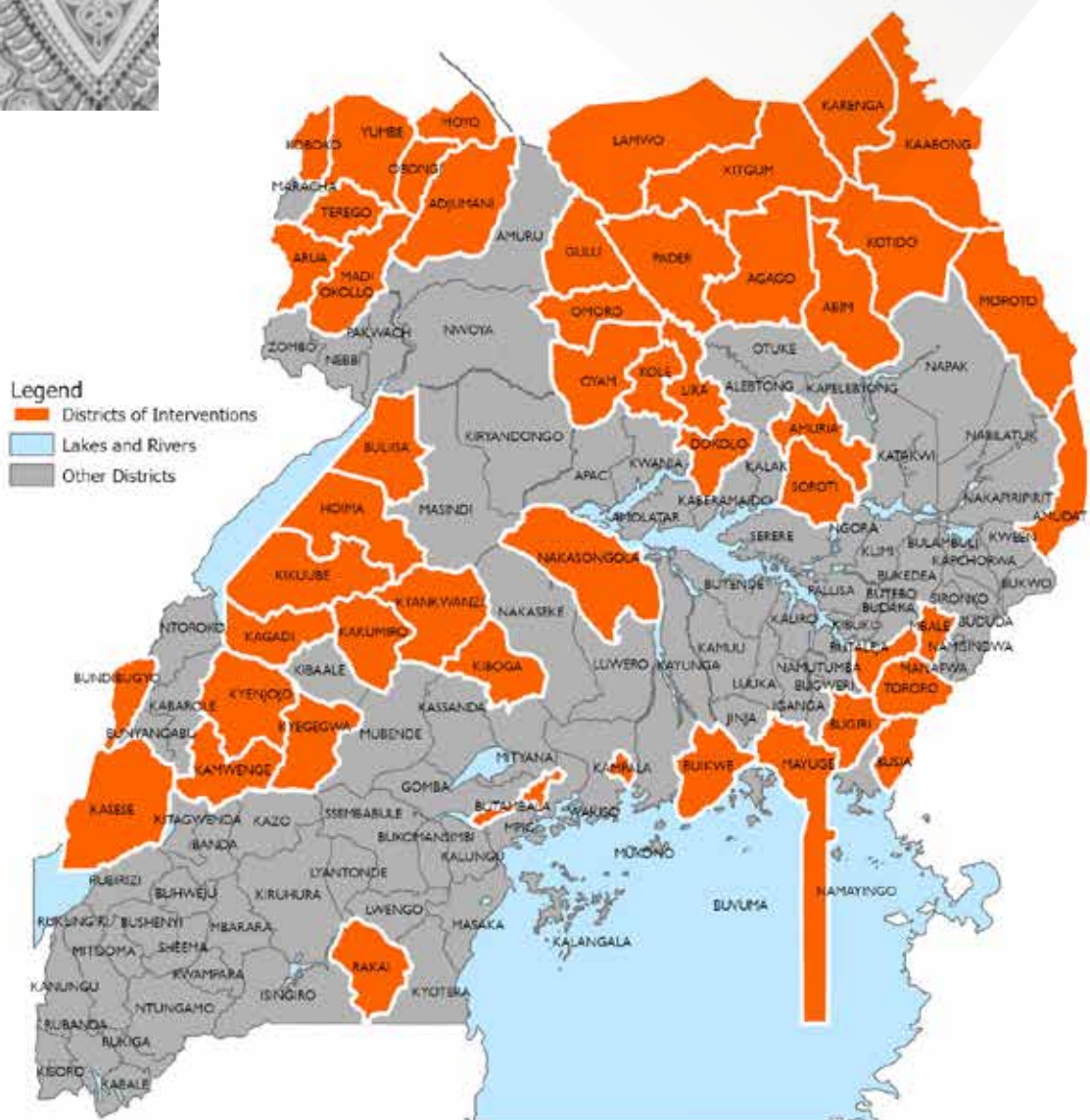
- ▶ We are Christian
- ▶ We are Committed to the Poor
- ▶ We Value People
- ▶ We are Stewards
- ▶ We are Partners
- ▶ We are Responsive



Our Presence

World Vision works in 48 districts across the three regions (Northern, Eastern and Western) and in Kampala city, with 46 Area Programmes.

District Area Programmes



Budget	Areas Programmes	Children reached more than	Staff
US\$87.2m	46	4.1 million	1,292 (543 female; 749 male)

Key achievements for the 2016/2020 Strategic Plan



Health & Nutrition



WASH

- 86%** Mothers delivered in a health facility with the help of a skilled birth attendant, an improvement from a baseline of 81%.
- 83%** Children aged 12-23 months were fully immunised, an improvement from a baseline of 72.5%.
- 64%** Households had year-round access to sufficient safe water, an improvement from a baseline of 42%.
- 7.9%** Children were under weight as compared to 9.5% at baseline.



Education

- 63%** Children in Primary six that can read with comprehension; improvement from 46.5% at baseline.
- 20%** Children in Primary three that can read with comprehension; improvement from 10% at baseline.
- 42%** Children (girls and boys) currently enrolled in and attended Early Childhood Development Centres; improvement from 26.0% at baseline.
- 60%** Parents and caregivers promoted reading readiness at home; improvement from 47% at baseline.
- 74%** Children 6-11 years enrolled in school at the right age; improvement from 9.5% at baseline.



Resilience & Livelihoods

- 43%** Parents provided well for their children; improvement from 31% at baseline.
- 78%** Children received minimum meal frequency; improvement from 60% at baseline.
- 78%** Children received minimum dietary diversity; improvement from 57% at baseline.
- 55%** Households had year-round access to sufficient food for the family's needs; improvement from 44% at baseline.



Child Protection

- 51%** Children had a birth certificate; improvement from 49% at baseline.
- 83%** Caregivers reported that faith leaders participate in the promotion of child well-being activities in their community; improvement from 78%.
- 84%** Parents or caregivers felt that their community is a safe place for children; improvement from 79.8% at baseline.
-  Proportion of girls and boys who experienced sexual violence in the last 12 months reduced from 22.5% to 19.8%.



Health and Nutrition

Supported SDGs



We work to increase the number of children aged 0-5, adolescents and women of reproductive age who are well nourished and protected from infection and disease. The programme aims to:

- ▶ Improve the nutritional status of pregnant/lactating mothers and children under five years.
- ▶ Increase access to and utilisation of basic Reproductive Maternal and Neonatal Child Health services.
- ▶ Increase access to and utilisation of core HIV prevention, care and treatment services.
- ▶ Increase access to safe water and sanitation; promoting adherence to good hygiene practices by households and children.

In 2020, we supported households to adopt appropriate maternal, infant and young child feeding practices. We equipped communities with the knowledge and skills to rehabilitate children with severe and moderate malnutrition. We supported immunisation of children and ensured full immunisation by age of one. Through our work with communities, we contributed to an increase of children sleeping under treated mosquito nets.

During the year, we also supported strengthening of the health system with focus on Health Management Information System (HMIS) and health service delivery. Health facilities were supported to ensure appropriate health information capturing and reporting. As a result, there was a noticeable increase in community members accessing HIV Counselling and Testing services, pregnant women attending at least four antenatal care visits and delivering at health facilities.

Our Models & Approaches



Timed and Targeted Counselling:

Counselling services offered to pregnant women and mothers of children under two and household members to increase adoption of appropriate health and nutrition knowledge, skills and practices.



Positive Deviance Hearth:

A community-led approach that we apply to identify and address mild, moderate and severe malnutrition in children under three years.



Integrated WASH:

A set of behaviour change interventions which we implement in communities, including health facilities to improve water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.



Highlights



17,930

Households adopted appropriate infant and young child feeding and nutrition practices.



18,955

Children completed their full immunisation by age one.



740

Children rehabilitated from severe or moderate malnutrition under the Positive Deviance Hearth sessions.



26,448

Households reached by trained Village Health Teams.



552

Functional nutritional care groups supported appropriate nutrition practices among mothers at community level.



4,674

Mothers supported to deliver at health facilities.



57

Health facilities supported to report on nutrition indicators in National Health Management Information Systems.



203,700

People reached with water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

Households supported to improve infant feeding



Prossy, 31, is a mother of two-year-old from Buikwe District in central Uganda. Her house borders a sugarcane plantation spanning square miles of land, from which most of households in her community eke a living as casual labourers.

Stunted and underweight children were commonplace as most parents did not find time to grow their own food crops.

Premised on this, Prossy was encouraged to join World Vision supported nutrition care group in her village. The care groups promote appropriate health and nutrition knowledge and skills, sanitation and hygiene. They are also involved in saving for transformation.

Kitchen gardening is one of activities promoted in the care groups in order to improve household diet. Once she became a member, Prossy was provided with weather resistant vegetable seedlings to start her kitchen garden.

Even with the outbreak of COVID-19, her household diet was not affected. She is assured of nutritious diet throughout the year, thanks to her flourishing kitchen garden.

Equipped with knowledge and skills on how best to feed her family, Prossy is hopeful her family especially the two-year-old toddler will not succumb to infections and diseases due to nutrition deficiency.

“The knowledge I have gained from the mother care groups is a goldmine,” said Prossy. “We now have plenty of nutritious meals, a thing that was not possible before.”

Prossy's is just one of more than 17,000 households supported to adopt appropriate infant and young child feeding.

“The knowledge I have gained from the mother care groups is a goldmine,” said Prossy. “We now have plenty of nutritious meals, a thing that was not possible before.”

— Prossy



WASH



Supported SDG

At World Vision, we want all children and families to flourish. With the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, we strove to give every child safe access to clean water. We refurbished broken water systems; constructed sanitation facilities, distributed handwashing facilities, and installed other systems, such as rainwater harvesting systems and mechanised water systems.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of WASH facilities, we trained 225 WASH committees to maintain and repair water points. Comprised of community volunteers, these committees took responsibility for operating and maintaining facilities, using a fee-collection system to pay for repairs when needed.

Our sanitation and hygiene interventions focused on promoting lasting behaviour change. Instead of simply building latrines, World Vision Uganda used a participatory, community-driven approach that motivates households to build, maintain, and regularly use their own latrines. Hygiene education encouraged community members to modify their hygiene habits by washing their hands and dishes with soap (or ash) and practicing safe water handling.

Our Models & Approaches



Integrated WASH:

A set of behaviour change interventions which we implement in communities, including health facilities to improve water, hygiene and sanitation facilities.



Highlights



203,700

People reached with water, sanitation and hygiene facilities; 52% children.



122,065

People accessed drinking water; more than 67,000 were children.



129,969

People practiced appropriate hygiene behaviour such as handwashing with water and soap.



14

Health centres were reached with water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.



10

Motorized solar-piped water systems constructed with 440 taps installed.



12,545

Household sanitation facilities were constructed, benefitting more than 52,000 people during the lock down.



983,081

Community members were reached with age-appropriate COVID-19 preventative messaging.



1,446

Public handwashing stations distributed.

Small loans help families to construct toilets



“Little children in the community used to see me when I would go to defecate in the bushes,” says Sarah Nakajjoba, a mother living in Kyalulangira, a sub-county in Rakai district, south-western Uganda. “It was very embarrassing to have children young enough to be my grandchildren stumble upon me,” says, Sarah, admitting the immense shame and discomfort from such incidents.

During the year, World Vision through Vision Fund piloted a water, sanitation and hygiene programme dubbed Loans for the Toilet. The programme involved providing small loans for toilet construction to selected families and training them in sound hygiene and sanitation practices, emphasising latrine construction and proper hand-washing. Sarah was among the five most vulnerable households

identified by the community, widows, the elderly, and families with members living with disabilities.

“Today, I feel dignified,” says Sarah, referring to her new latrine. “I use it when I need to, and I make sure to keep it clean.” Sarah also makes sure she washes her hands after visiting the toilet, understanding that her age makes her a role model. The woman who once risked daily indignity is now a champion of hygiene and sanitation in her community.

Most homes in Sarah’s community are now accessing loans to construct latrines. The expense is kept low as materials are locally sourced, making it more likely that the step forward in improving sanitation and adopting appropriate hygiene behaviour will last.

“I thank World Vision for helping me to reclaim my dignity. I now live like a human being, and I don’t have to worry about privacy issues anymore,” says Sarah, who is working with her neighbours to address sanitation and hygiene challenges in their community.



“Today, I feel dignified,” says Sarah, referring to her new latrine. “I use it when I need to, and I make sure to keep it clean.”



- Sarah



Education

Supported SDGs



With the outbreak of COVID-19, all education institutions in the country were closed in March 2020. The closure of schools and restrictions on public gatherings greatly affected the implementation of Education Programme. All school based activities were halted and a number of other community engagement activities under Unlock Literacy model like Reading Clubs could not proceed.

World Vision Uganda responded first to support the Government initiatives to contain the spread of COVID-19 and began adapting to the National Education COVID-19 Response Plan. This involved supporting continuity of learning through provision of self-study learning materials, supporting radio learning, training parents and adapting teacher training to support home based learning activities. Community literacy volunteers and parents were trained to support home based learning.

Our Models & Approaches



Learning Roots:

Addresses the development and learning needs of children from ages 3 - 6, preparing them for a successful transition to primary school.



Unlock Literacy:

Supports children in grades 1-3 to improve 5 core reading skills (letter knowledge, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension).



Highlights



343

Schools reached before COVID-19.



897

Youth volunteers trained in supporting community based literacy activities.



171,500

Children reached before COVID-19.



7,882

Children enrolled for community based literacy activities.



2,359

Teachers trained and were applying child friendly teaching methodologies in primary schools.

Enabling learning during COVID-19

Ruth was excited that she was going to be promoted to senior one after her final exams in October. Her parents had promised to get her a new school bag in her favourite colour, pink. But the year 2020 turned out to be different, her excitement faded with the school closure right before the final examinations.

'I miss going to school and playing with my friends,' said the eleven-year old. 'I will not be getting new books and a bag this year. Ruth and her three siblings live with their grandparents and aunts in Pader district in Northern Uganda. Her parents are subsistence farmers.

Following the lockdown, the education of 15 million children was disrupted. Kept away from their classrooms and their progress in education threatened, many spend most of their time at home playing, helping their parents with chores, engaged in agriculture but would also spare some hours a day to study.

Ruth and her friends in the neighbourhood received self-learning materials from World Vision. Community volunteer and teacher Gladys Akello of Pakor Primary School said, 'Children spent their time playing around but with these self-learning materials, they are busy reading, writing, and colouring. I hope this will keep them motivated towards studies as we are not sure when the schools will reopen.'

Countries with lower learning outcomes and high drop-out rates like Uganda are particularly vulnerable to the impact of school closures. The United Nations

Development Programme has estimated that 86 percent of the children in the low human development countries are not receiving education due to the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to 20 percent of the children in the developed countries.

'I don't want my brain to rust,' said Ruth. 'I will keep reading until when the schools will be opened.'

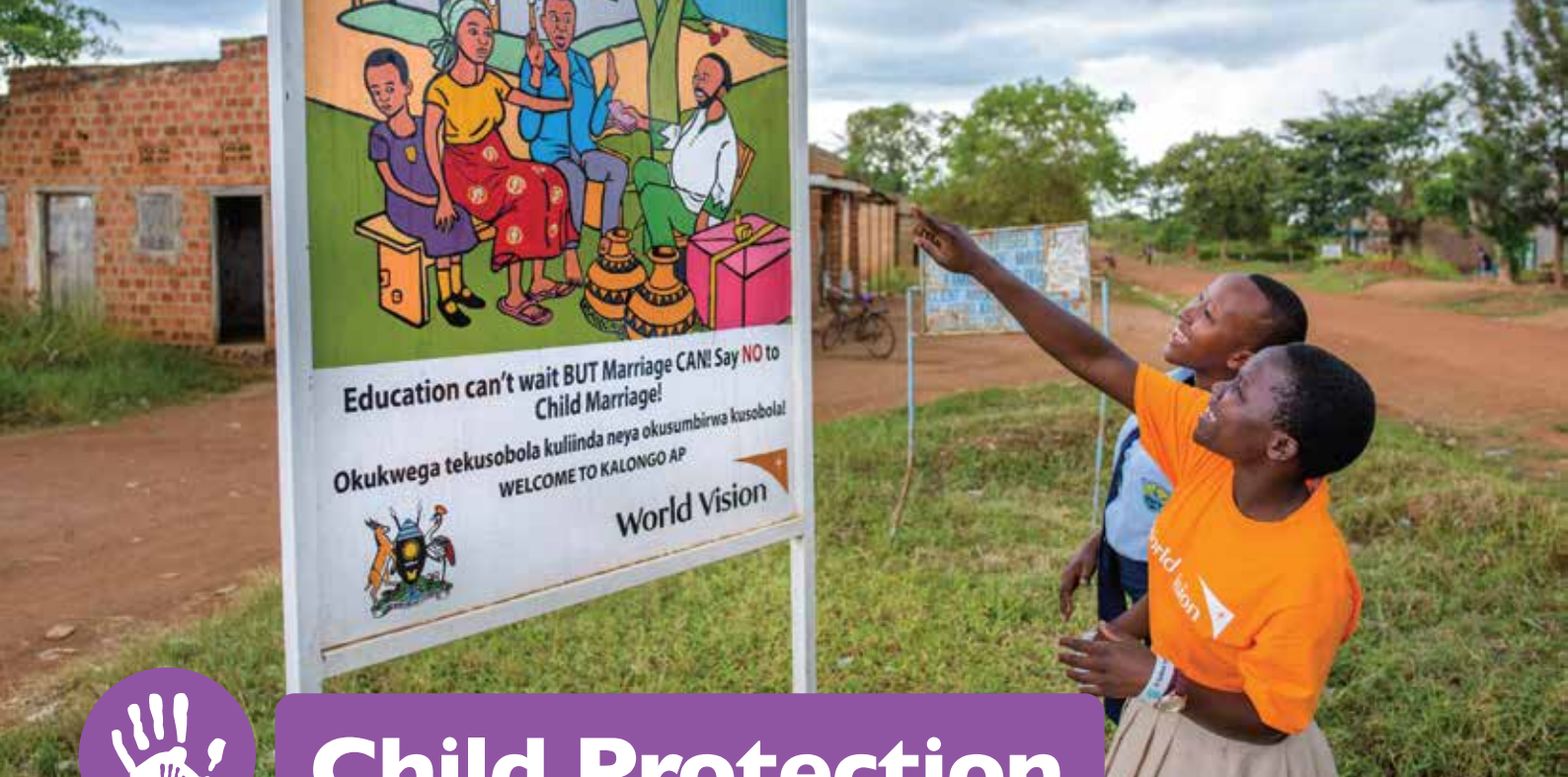
COVID-19 has tested the boundaries of Uganda's education system. Although the pandemic also revealed how quickly the country could adapt to the challenge to ensure children continued with their education, those engaged in this sector realise that much remains to be done to improve children's learning. Infrastructure, not just in terms of school building but technological advancement with accessible alternative education should be the focus of today's development planning to enable girls like Ruth pursue their dreams.



Children spent their time playing around but with these self-learning materials, they are busy reading, writing, and colouring. I hope this will keep them motivated towards studies as we are not sure when the schools will reopen.



- Gladys



Child Protection

Supported SDG



World Vision Uganda contributes to the realisation of SGD 16.2; which promotes the right of every child to live free from fear, neglect, abuse and exploitation. We prevent child abuse, exploitation and all forms of violence against children.

In 2020, we worked with community, cultural institutions and faith leaders to create awareness among children, parents and caregivers about the different forms of abuse, where to seek help and remedies.

We collaborated to enforce laws and policies that promote children's rights. We worked at local and national levels to ensure children, especially the most vulnerable, were cared for in safe community and family environments.

Our Models & Approaches



Celebrating Families:

We strengthen the competency of parents/caregivers and faith leaders to identify and address family issues, as well as harmful attitudes and practices towards child violence and neglect within the family.



Channels of Hope for Child Protection:

We equip and empower churches and faith communities to take action for prevention, care, and advocacy for child well-being.

Highlights



1,149

Children protected from harmful practices including gender based violence.



7,753

Households reported a reduction in a specific harmful practices in the past 12 months.



20,192

Children were able to identify at least 3 methods of protecting themselves.



31,359 (21,170 male; 10,189 female)

Community members accessed child protection information through awareness raising sessions.



563

Child protection mechanisms or structures were established to report child protection incidents.



1,034

Child protection cases were reported to and followed up by community reporting and referral structures, including Child Protection Committees.

Stella said NO to Child Marriage

Sixteen-year-old Stella is from Agago district in Northern Uganda. She is in grade seven and cannot wait to sit her primary leaving exams. At her age every child dreams of completing schools and becoming an important in the society.

But with the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020, Stella's dream of becoming a nurse was almost shattered. She was not going to complete her primary level. Reason: her parents had a different plan.

"My father decided I should get married to get the bride price for my brother", said Stella. "I just couldn't believe my ears but my father was very serious."

A second born in the family of six, Stella was out of options. Her mother who could have probably defended her had been forced to abandon the marriage due to domestic violence.

"I felt so vulnerable," said Stella. "I just wanted the earth to swallow me alive."

Earlier Stella's elder brother had dropped out of school for lack of school requirements. "What shocked and saddened me was that my brother had been pressured to leave school and marry. Now there was no money for brideprice and I was supposed to be a sacrificial lamb," Stella said amidst teary eyes.

For Stella, accepting her father's 'proposal' meant one thing: end of her education journey.

Inspired by her dream, she was not giving in without a fight. "I resisted but my father was adamant," said Stella. "I cried to him but that didn't change his mind. Instead, he started to treat me harshly."

As her relationship with the father deteriorated and conditions at home became unbearable, Stella decided to seek refuge at a house of a Child Protection Committee member trained by World Vision. The committees are community structures supported by World Vision to

report child protection incidents.

"Even when my friends were encouraging me to accept my father's decision, I refused," she said adding, "I knew what to do if my rights are violated."

Stella is among more than 20,000 children able to identify methods of protecting themselves and others from violence, thanks to World Vision's support.

When the Child Protection Committee learnt of her case, they immediately swung into action.

"They managed to convince my father to rescind the decision. That remains my happiest moment," said Stella, who felt like a new lease of life.

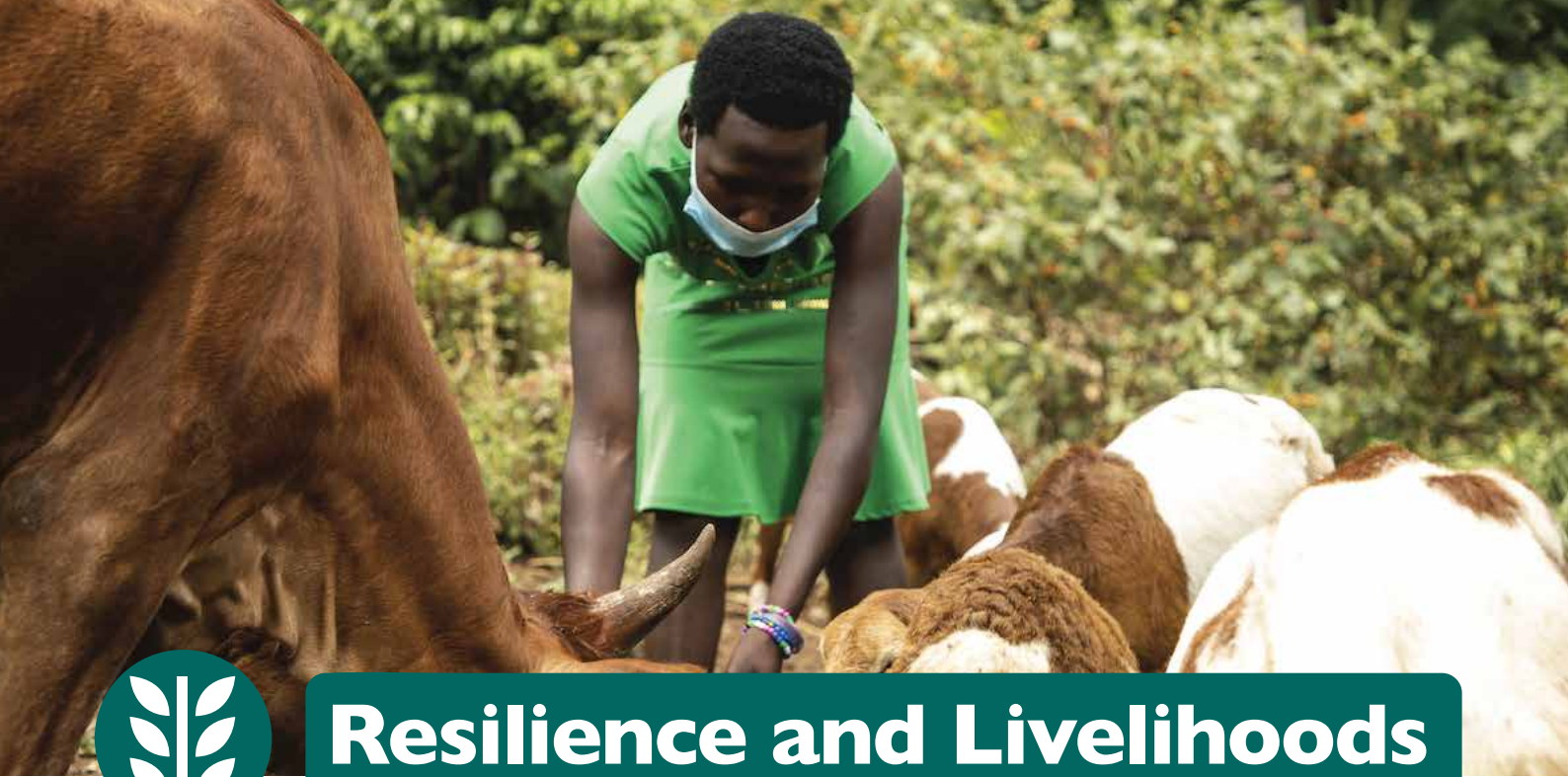
Now aware of the dire consequences of marrying off his young daughter, Stella's father committed to resume supporting her. "I realise my mistake," said 49-year-old father. "I won't do it again. I regret all my actions and words against my daughter. I promise to spend every little money I get to support my daughter's education because she is very determined to achieve her dreams."

With schools open for learners in candidate classes, Stella is back in class to pursue her dream. "I want to become a nurse because I want to help people in my community," she said with a smile.

Stella's mother is back home and her elder brother returned his child bride to their family. "We're a happy family once again. This is all thanks to World Vision," said Stella.

In Northern Uganda, the COVID-19 outbreak has worsened violence against children. In Wol Sub County in Agago district, for example, more than 220 cases of violence were reported between February and November 2020. And in the whole country, cases increased to almost 5,000 from 2,400 before COVID-19, which is a 20% increase; with fathers as the biggest perpetrators.

20% increase in cases of **violence against children** reported country-wide in 2020; with **fathers** as **leading perpetrators.**



Resilience and Livelihoods

Supported SDGs



With a focus to improve children's well-being, this programme sought to improve livelihood and resilience for more than 180,000 small-holder farmers, agro-pastoralists and youth for economic empowerment by 2020.

During the year, we focused on food production for nutrition; improving the natural resource base; improving household income through agricultural enterprise; improving household and institutional capacity to manage natural and man-made shocks and stress.

We collaborated with public and private sector partners who supported farmers to access improved technologies, knowledge and information.

However, our interventions were influenced by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. With every aspect of life affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a great need to focus on (re)building resilience of vulnerable household and communities. We distributed vegetable seeds and provided vouchers to more than 30,000 households to enable them access early maturing crop varieties. We also strengthened saving groups to enable members save, access credit, and insurance services.

The core model used was Building Secure Livelihood and other approaches such as Empowered World View and Household Engagement and Accountability Approach were very helpful in changing mindsets, facilitating household level participation, monitoring and accountability. The major enterprises/value chains supported were maize, beans, soya beans, sorghum, coffee, banana, irish potato, ginger, dairy, sunflower, cassava and ground nuts.

Our Models & Approaches



Building Secure Livelihoods:

Aims to sustainably build secure livelihoods for the marginal poor. These are households outside extreme poverty but slightly below or above international poverty line.



Saving for Transformation:

Mobilise communities to form saving groups and to increase their access to financial services.



Empowered World View:

We work to transform mind-sets from a dependency attitude to an entrepreneurship level.



Household Engagement and Accountability Approach:

A Uganda developed approach that brings together households to jointly identify and address issues that affect child well-being.

Highlights



19,278

farmers applied and practiced improved farming practices.



24,773

farmers received agricultural extension services.



11,592

households accessed improved seed and planting material.



10,984

households with small livestock for nutrition and incomes.



10,658

households practicing kitchen gardening.



3,370

savings groups were established

Kitchen gardening boosts children's immunity amidst COVID-19



Jowelia, 14, lives in Butambala District in central Uganda. She boasts of good health despite COVID-19 havoc. She is a beneficiary of kitchen gardening, a World Vision promoted initiative of growing a variety of vegetables, herbs, and fruits of one's choice on small portions of gardens around the home. The initiative is intended to build resilience as well as provide essential vitamins and minerals to vulnerable households.

"We now have a kitchen garden at our home, thanks to World Vision," said Jowelia, pointing at her garden of flourishing vegetables. "In my group we were 18 children and our parents were also invited to participate in the training. We are now all growing vegetables and this has boosted our diet. Personally, I used to fall sick often because I lacked some important body nutrients according to doctors. But since I started eating vegetables almost daily, my health has greatly improved."

3,370 saving groups
(68% women) were **established**
impacting more than **749,000**
children.



Child Sponsorship

World Vision’s approach to sponsorship continues to evolve while the fundamental objective remains focused on positively impacting the well-being of children through long term community development interventions. By the end of financial year 2020 World Vision Uganda advanced positive change in the lives of 137,339 sponsored children, their families and communities.

More than 130,000 children were equipped with life skills through Child Development and Participation Centres. In addition, 1,990 community structures known as Community Volunteer Associations, or COVAs, were established to care for registered children and manage sponsorship operations.

In the past year, despite the impact of COVID-19, World Vision Uganda has launched a new approach to engaging child sponsors through a World Vision wide initiative called “Chosen”. Instead of sponsors choosing the children they would like to support, the child is now given the power to choose their sponsor. To date, “Chosen” has introduced 2,673 children to the first of many empowering choices they will have the opportunity to make through child sponsorship, helping them to become agents of lasting change.

Empowering people out of poverty is at the heart of World Vision’s work. With four more children benefiting for every child sponsored, our supporters can be assured that their generosity will impact the lives of many more vulnerable children by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice.

World Vision Uganda is thankful for the faithful contributions of thousands of individual supporters around the world.

- As World Vision moves more into digital platforms and new ways of connecting sponsors with children, we are seeing renewed interest and commitment to child sponsorship an effective vehicle for transformational change and impact in the lives of the most vulnerable children, their families and communities.

“

“It felt great to have chosen my own sponsor. I saw how the family closely hugged and smiled to each other. It means there is love in the family. So they will love me too.”

”

- Christine, 9.

Highlights



137,339

Children were sponsored.



130,000+

Children were empowered with age-appropriate life skills.



143,554

Children have had their well-being transformed through Gifts Notifications.



100,000

Sponsors from 11 Support Offices engaged and transformed.



2,673

Children were given an opportunity to choose their own sponsors.



267

Child Development and Participation Centres established and equipped.



1,990

Community Volunteer Association members facilitated increased child care.

Past Chosen Moments





Faith & Development

World Vision recognises the importance of faith and how this shapes the world view of communities where we operate. In the past year, core models like Child Spiritual Nurture, Celebrating families, Channels of Hope for Child Protection and Empowered WorldView were used in reaching out to communities.

Further, over 3,400 parents and caregivers were trained to address family issues, including positive parenting, violence against children, and neglect. This brought greater awareness on issues such as sexual abuse and further promoted the message from our "It takes a World to End Violence," campaign.

A total of 22,687 children participated in spiritual nurturing activities through World Vision Area Programmes, working in collaboration with communities as well as church and other partners. Children who participated in the spiritual nurture clubs reported having become more confident in expressing themselves and relating with each other in a healthy manner and in facing up to challenges they encounter on a daily basis. They are now able to use their new found self-assertiveness to stay away from risky behaviours and to understand the dangers of early child marriages.

22,687
Children participated in spiritual nurturing activities.

Highlights



849

Churches and Faith Based Institutions with programmes for spiritual nurture and protection of children.



388

Schools supported with active spiritual nurture clubs.



22,687

Children participating in spiritual nurture clubs.



3,456 (2158 male; 1298 female)

Parents trained in positive discipline and other Child Protection issues.



4,875

Parents who demonstrate increased knowledge in positive discipline and other Child Protection related issues.



1,124

Individuals were empowered to start income generating activities such as farming, business using locally available resources.



Advocacy

For World Vision Uganda, advocacy means giving voice to Uganda's most vulnerable children, making their needs visible to those who can and should be meeting them, and urging decision makers to take action. To address the underlying root causes of poverty we must press for changes to unjust systems, policies, processes and services through advocacy. In 2020, we promoted citizen empowerment and policy influence through civic mobilization, education, and participation at local and national level.



Citizen Voice and Action:

We focused on gathering evidence and community feedback from the local level using the Citizen Voice and Action approach to inform our local and national level advocacy agenda. We trained project staff, community members and local government officers in the Citizen Voice and Action curriculum to support their specific advocacy needs at all levels.

This ignited community members to advocate for improved service delivery. For instance, in Kakumiro District community members successfully lobbied for upgrade of Igayaza Health Centre from level II to level III.



National Level Advocacy:

At national level, we worked with partners while engaging with policy makers to address critical policy gaps that affect child wellbeing. We signed Memorandums of Understanding with Church of Uganda, Scripture Union of Uganda, Buganda and Busoga kingdoms. These partnerships amplified our voice on policy and social norm changes. Today, we celebrate the partnerships established to address spiritual, economic, social norms and practices that perpetuate violence against children.

Our Models & Approaches



It takes a world
to end violence against children

Launched in 2017, It takes a world campaign is focused on ending child marriage, child sacrifice and violence against children in school in Uganda. In 2020, the campaign registered a number of gains, including:

- Strengthening of children's capacities to protect themselves and others from violence through advocacy, entrepreneurship skilling, and support for youth friendly services. As a result more children are reporting cases of violence through the different child protection structures.
- Supporting interventions and influencing budgetary allocations to end violence against children in different districts such as Mpigi, Busia, Buikwe and Gulu.
- Influencing policies such as formulation of the national parenting guidelines, Guidelines on Teenage Pregnancy, the Prevention and Prohibition of Human Sacrifice and Sexual Offenses Bills pending approval of Parliament.

Highlights



Amplified children's voice

With support from partners like Joining Forces Coalition, we influenced global and national policies including programmes towards child well-being.



Influenced policy adoption for child well-being

The National Child Policy is a comprehensive policy framework that seeks to promote the friendly holistic and well-coordinated service by state and non-state actors.



Strengthened Partnerships

We signed Memorandum of Understanding with Church of Uganda, Buganda and Busoga Kingdoms focused on securing the well-being of most vulnerable children



Amplified community voices

Through Citizens Voice and Action, we empowered communities to demand for policy implementation and improved service delivery.



Budget Advocacy

for improved policy implementations and service delivery.

Working with different Civil Society Organisations we successfully influenced;

- ▶ The increase of grants for both Universal Primary Education (10,000- 14,000) and Universal Secondary Education (41,000- Grants for Special Needs Education) to be decentralized for effective implementation.
- ▶ Increase for Primary Health care grant at Health Centre III from UGX3.5 million per quarter to UGX7 million.



Using evidence

to influence policy makers' action towards child protection.

- ▶ WorldVision partnered with four media houses to document evidence on the impact of COVID -19 on children. The focus was on health, education and child protection in 5 districts of Busia, Nakasongola, Kiboga, West Nile, Gulu and Kibale.
- ▶ Stories highlighted the increase in child marriage, defilement, government inadequacies in the provision of education and health services to children. The evidence informed policy debates and dialogues at different levels, amplified children's voices and prompted duty bearers to take action. For instance, the phased re-opening of schools, ensuring child protection structures and mechanisms function during the lockdown such as the Child Helpline. Uganda Police, particularly the Child and Family Unit, the Commissioner Youth and Children's Affairs committed to commission a tour across all the districts to ensure standard operating procedure during COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, Uganda Police commissioned an assessment to further expound on the cases violence reported in Busia, and Nakasongola and Kakumiro.

Improving access to safe and clean water through local advocacy

Inama village is one of the water stressed villages in Buwaaya sub-county in Mayuge District. The villages didn't have any safe water sources. Community members often drew water for domestic use from ponds, open and unsafe springs shared with animals.

The use of water from these unprotected sources exposed residents to water related disease with children as the most affected. With the support of World Vision through the Mayuge Neglected Tropical Diseases Elimination (MANE) Project, Mayuge local government was able to ensure safe water sources were installed in every community of the sub-county.

This was after a team of 15 men and women were trained in the Citizen Voice and Action approach. The team then conducted community awareness sessions from which community members were empowered to demand for safe water prevent the spread of bilharzia and intestinal worms.

The local leaders responded to the community's call and safe water sources were installed. The community leaders engaged a local Islamic foundation called GIDCCO which funded the installation of protected hand pump in Inama village. They also secured the support of Kakira Sugar Works, a sugar manufacturing factory that funded the development of protected water spring. The community has formed water user committees to protect their bore hole. Each family is expected to contribute UGX500 user fees for its maintenance per month.

“

I used to draw water from a dirty spring we shared with animals. The water was very dirty we had no choice. But after World Vision trained us to demand for quality services, we now have clean water. Thank you World Vision for empowering us. Now we know our rights as citizens.

”

- Nairuba, Mother of 7, Inama.

More than **2,400** cases of **violence**
against **children** were reported
between **January and March 2020.**



Refugee Response

The Refugee Response programme in West Nile responds to the needs of refugees, mainly from South Sudan. Uganda currently hosts 1.4 million refugees and 80% of these have fled conflict and hunger in South Sudan. The Majority of the refugees are women and children who we continue to reach through our Food assistance, WASH, Protection, and Livelihoods programmes.

COVID-19 presented new challenges for the refugee community, and most of our programming had to be inclined towards promoting awareness and mitigating the effects of the pandemic on the most vulnerable children. Movement restrictions, partial lockdowns, closure of schools and Child-Friendly Spaces have exacerbated existing challenges and protection concerns faced by children, including limited access to development activities.

Our response interventions reached more than 347,000 people in the seven districts of Lamwo, Adjumani, Obong'i, Moyo, Yumbe, Terego and Madi Okollo, thanks to funding from the United Nations, governments and the World Vision Partnership.

Last year, 23,347 children participated in community-based and psychosocial support services, focusing on strengthening their resilience and capacities to overcome protection concerns. Given the high number of unaccompanied or separated children registered in Uganda, provision and monitoring of alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied children under foster care remained a critical priority for the sector. A total of 6,051 unaccompanied or separated children, majority of whom were adolescent girls and boys between 12-17 years old, received case management services.

Highlights



347,093
People reached through emergency response; 205,794 were children.



56,220
People benefited from food security and agriculture; more than 8,000 were children.



277,365
People benefited from food and cash assistance; 180,286 were children.



35,372
Children benefited from protection.



2,361
People benefited from WASH; 813 were children.



180,800
People benefited from health and nutrition; 117,510 were children.



225,560
People benefited from shelter and non-food items; 153,381 were children.



6,000
Children benefited from education.



Disaster Management



Supported SDG

When disasters happen, whether natural or manmade, we want children to have access to food, clean water, and shelter. Last year, more than 1,000 households (with over 6,000 people) affected by floods in seven districts were provided with multipurpose cash assistance to meet their basic needs and restore human dignity. Over 14,000 adolescents, parents, caregivers and community leaders in affected communities were trained and supported to protect children.



Highlights



7,480

Children affected by floods were provided with emergency support services.



8,752

People affected by floods were reached with WASH facilities.



14,431

Adolescents, caregivers and community leaders in seven districts affected by floods participated in provision of child protection services in their communities.



1,250

Households (estimated 6,250 people) were provided with multipurpose cash assistance to meet basic needs and restore human dignity.



UGX 231.2 million

Disbursed to floods affected families in Kasese district.



1,162

Extremely affected households (estimated 5,810 people) were provided with non-food items and WASH facilities.

Helping children, their families survive crisis

It was about 2pm when Jimmy Byaruhanga, was woken up by the rumble of water and boulders as they crashed down Mount Rwenzori.

Then came the alarms raised by those living on the hilltop. Those who could run, raced down the hill to warn people living along the valley and lowlands, alerting them to leave their homes to escape the torrent of water that was on its way down the mountain. Four rivers in Kasese district, the Nyamwamba, Mubuku, Myamughasana and Lhubiriha had burst their banks.

"I realised a disaster was coming. It was a matter of life and death," Jimmy said. "I ran back to the house to wake up my wife and children. I knocked and alerted our neighbours. The floods and stones are coming to kill us."

That night heavy rains in the area of western Uganda swept away homes, schools, submerged farms, cut off bridges, and left several roads impassable, affecting more than 24,000 families and an estimated 173,000 people, according to a disaster committee interim assessment report.

"We couldn't sleep on the hill. It was so cold. The children were crying. There was nothing I could do," said Jimmy as he lights a fire to cook at a makeshift home in Kilembe, about 10 km north-west Kasese town.

"We came back in the afternoon after the water had receded and saw the great devastation of the floods. The water destroyed and swept away everything," he said. "We have been left homeless and very desperate. Where do we start from? We need urgent assistance."

Blocked by the water, Jimmy along with his 6 children and 2 elderly relatives, sought refuge atop an anthill 5 meters from his house.

"What do I do?" he asked, "All my property, banana plantations, vanilla and other crops which I was supposed to harvest were swept away."

The villages of Kyanjuki, Bulembia and Katiri were buried under mud and huge stones that were propelled down the mountain. Homes on lower land were submerged in water.

"I haven't seen anything like this. I'm seeing for the first time where

everything has been run down," said Stephen Oluka, the director of Uganda's National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre, on a visit to Kasese town.

"The infrastructure has been damaged. The hospital and power stations have been overrun. People's houses along the path have all been swept away. Gardens, crops and animals have been taken away," he said.

Schools and churches were designated temporary displacement camps. The immediate needs included shelter, food, bedding, mosquito nets, utensils, mobile toilets, water storage facilities and tarpaulins.

Getting relief aid

World Vision, with support from European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, set up a four-month project to support 1,250 households like Jimmy's, which had been affected by the floods in Kasese. With cash assistance, these families were able to buy food, Non-Food Items, and invest in income generating activities to help them sustain their lives. Prior to receiving this cash, families were trained on financial literacy and gender training to help them get involved in the planning for the money.

"They taught us to always discuss the budget as a family. Now that we do. We always agree on the family priorities and if there is any balance we invest in an income-generating activity to continue earning," Jimmy explained. "This cash assistance has helped us to meet our basic needs, especially after everything we owned was washed away."

World Vision also fixed and ran quality tests for water sources near the 19 camps where families were sheltered. This helped not only the families displaced by the floods, but also the communities who share these water sources. As these families grapple with effects of flood devastation, support from our donors offers a promise that tomorrow will be better than today.

"The Lord is my Shepard. He is our provide.r For now we lack nothing. Thank you so much for everything you have done for us. May God bless you for having such giving hearts," concluded Jimmy.



COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked unprecedented havoc on children, families and communities around the world, disrupting vital services and putting millions of lives at risk. In the wake of this pandemic, the fight against extreme poverty and inequality got tougher, but more important than ever.

As part of the global COVID-19 emergency response, World Vision Uganda worked with partners at local and national level to limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce its impact.

In 2020, we worked with faith leaders to help girls and boys and their families cope with the physical, emotional and social implications of being socially distanced. We trained and supported community health workers to provide community based services, including sensitising parents and caregivers on how to keep their children emotionally and psychologically healthy and cope with fears about the virus. We provided personal protective equipment to medical personnel at the frontline.

With handwashing proving critical in the prevention of COVID-19, we distributed handwashing facilities to communities and health facilities. And following the closure of schools due to COVID-19, we procured and distributed educational materials to support remote learning.

Overall, eight million people were reached, the highest in the East Africa region. Of these, 1.7 million were reached directly, 47% being children.

Response Footprint




Our Impact



OBJECTIVE 1: Scaling up preventive measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 disease

1,095,952 People 
reached with preventive messaging.

2,789 Faith leaders 
mobilised to disseminate preventive messages and offer psychosocial support.

1,929 Public
hand-washing stations established or maintained for COVID-19 prevention.

84,870 Hand-washing supplies 
distributed for COVID-19 prevention.



OBJECTIVE 2: Strengthen health systems and workers



18,105 
Community health workers
trained and supported to provide community based services.

25,367 
Children
supported to complete their immunization.

2,285
Hospital deliveries 
facilitated during the lockdown period.

712 
People
supported in quarantine and/or isolation spaces.

46,010
Face masks 
distributed to health facilities, community health workers, and caregivers.

67,390 
Medical gloves
distributed to health facilities, community health workers, and caregivers.





OBJECTIVE 3: Support for children impacted by COVID-19 through education, child protection, food and livelihoods



23,908
Households

provided with livelihoods physical assets/support, excluding cash and vouchers.



345,000
Educational materials
provided to support remote learning.



OBJECTIVE 4: Collaborate and advocate to ensure children are protected



180
Community-led dialogues
on service delivery conducted.



110
External Stakeholder
COVID-19 engagements organised.



9 Policy changes

adopted, and/or operational challenges addressed at the national or local level.

These included;

- ▶ Universal Primary Education Policy (UPE)
- ▶ 2nd National Health Policy
- ▶ National Policy Strategic Guidelines of Investment Plan for Upgrade of Health Facilities,
- ▶ Children's Amendment Act 2016
- ▶ National Agriculture Extension Policy
- ▶ The National Seed Policy
- ▶ Operation Wealth Creation Policy
- ▶ National Orphans and other Vulnerable Children Policy of Uganda.

Notably was the adoption of the National Child Policy 2020; a comprehensive framework which seeks to address all issues that affect the well-being of children. Additionally, local level advocacy contributed to the adoption of new safe guarding and child protection bylaws in sub-counties of Lwamaggwa, Kachonga and Naweyo, including a new School Feeding Policy in Buikwe District.

We influenced formulation of the National Parenting Guidelines, Guidelines on Teenage Pregnancy, the Prevention and Prohibition of Human Sacrifice and Sexual Offences bills pending approval of Parliament. We also influenced the Government of Uganda to pass and implement the Ministry of Education and Sports Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19 as well as Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development COVID-19 Intervention Plan.

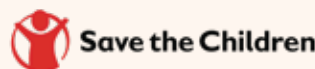
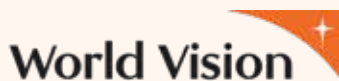




Partnerships

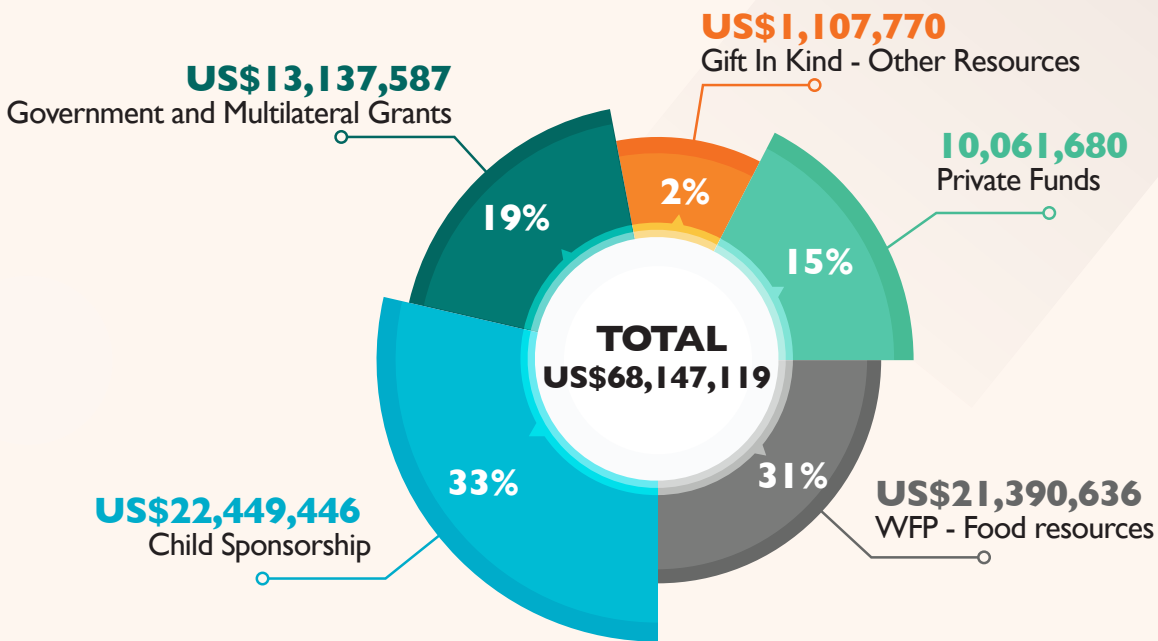
As World Vision aspires to deepen its impact, partnering is core to our work. We seek to collaborate and advocate for broader impact. With nearly 35 years' experience working in Ugandan communities, we have built strong partnerships with local government authorities, corporates and organisations, partner NGOs, and the communities in which we work.

World Vision wishes to acknowledge and express appreciation to our partners listed below for their continued commitment to improve the lives of Uganda's most vulnerable children.

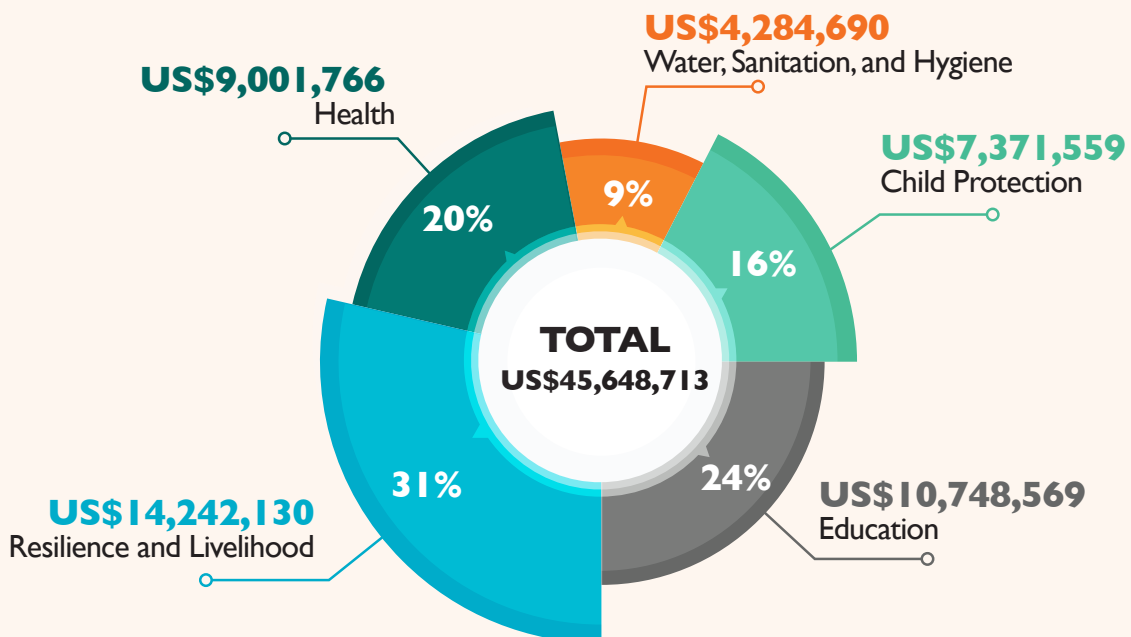


Financials

Resources for the Ministry



Ministry Spending by Sector Programming (Cash)



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