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Second Quarter Activity Report

April to June 2020

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank the entire team of Community Concerns Uganda Initiative for the great work delivered during this second quarter of the year. We thank our partners and donors who have made it possible for the projects to be implemented. Your continuing support makes all of our work possible, and on behalf of the CCUg staff and the women and children we serve, we thank you very much for your generosity and pray that you will keep up with the spirit of giving. I thank the Executive Board of Trustees for the advice and follow up on our work; we are indeed grateful. Not forgetting the members that we are serving, thank you for being available and allowing us to serve you.



Nakiryia Brenda Doreen
Managing Director

Administration

Achievements

- We wrote and sent out four proposals to four potential funders for new / expanded projects and we are awaiting their reply.
- We completed 2 online courses in Girl Centred Design and Child Protection respectively through Philanthropy University. Since we work with adolescent girls, this increased our knowledge to better serve them.
- We acquired a new website (www.ccuginitiative.org) with the help of Hannah Patterson, one of our Consultative Panelists in Charge of International Partnerships.

Challenge

- We were not able to implement some planned activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Project Activities

CCUg programs fall under three major themes: Education, Health, and Livelihood.

Within these broad categories, we currently have 5 active projects: Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), School Sponsorship project (Education), Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), and School-Related Gender-Based Violence (SRGBV) (Health), Group Savings Program and Adult Literacy (Livelihood). We were unable to do work on some of these projects due to mandatory restrictions related to Covid-19. These impacted projects involving local schools, such as the School-Related Gender-Based Violence program and our OVC Sponsorship Project.

A summary of the achievements, challenges, and recommendations associated with each of these five active projects is provided below.

OVC Sponsorship Project

Due to the COVID-19 lockdown, schools were not operating therefore, all our sponsored children are being kept at home.

Achievements

- Monitored the children through phone calls and verified that the children are reading their books and helping their parents while at home.

Challenges

- The biggest challenge we faced was school closure due to COVID-19.

Menstrual Hygiene Management

We had an on-going Menstrual Hygiene Management project funded by Amplify Change. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we requested permission from our donors to change some of the planned activities in light of the fact that the schools were under lockdown. Amplify Change gave us a no-additional-cost extension of 3 months to complete agreed-upon project work, some of which involved new activities to replace others that we were unable to implement during the lockdown. The new activities included research on the impact of COVID-19 on SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights) among adolescents and women, Interpersonal Group Therapy to identify and address the needs of depressed women, distributing Maama Kits and Baby Receivers, and supporting expectant mothers with transport money to enable them to go to the hospital to deliver, and providing them with emergency food.

Achievements

- Data on the impact of COVID-19 on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and adolescents was conducted among 141 individuals in the local communities selected to participate in the Menstrual Health and Hygiene project. The participant demographics are shown in the following table.

#	Group	#	Group
15	Postnatal mothers	18	Out-of-school adolescents
20	Pregnant women	27	School-going adolescents
27	Married women	4	Parents of children with disabilities
8	Local leaders	10	Healthcare workers
6	Male partners	3	Community Development Officers
1	Staff at a local women's shelter	2	Probation officers

- We were able to start data analysis of the audio files obtained during interviews, including translation and transcription of 141 recordings, all of which were coded for further analysis.
- Twenty-one women were identified with depression. Of these, 7 were postnatal mothers, 10 were pregnant mothers and 4 were out-of-school adolescents. Five women were experiencing active suicide ideation and we provided suicide prevention counseling to them. Afterward, all of these women were organized in groups and provided with group therapy for depression.
- We were able to donate 125 Emergency Kits and Baby Receivers to vulnerable expectant mothers from Mauta, Mutai, Nsozibiri, Namulesa, and Wansimba. Most of the beneficiaries were young mothers (78) and all had issues of their spouses / partners not supporting them. Some of their partners had run away due to Covid-19-related concerns.
- CCUg staff gained skills in bar soap making. This skill is to be passed on to other community members that will be identified in subsequent research.
- CCUg staff completed training in Interpersonal Group Therapy and gained skills and knowledge in conducting this type of intervention with adolescents, youths and mothers who are suffering with depression and anxiety.
- Twenty-three individuals were trained in making reusable pads in the Bugodi community.
- We were able to purchase emergency food through money available under the Amplify Change grant. Purchases included maize flour to make posho (250kg), millet flour for making porridge (100kgs) and milk sachets each for 15 grams (1200). This intervention was aimed at addressing food insecurity arising from

the effects of COVID-19 among vulnerable groups of women who participated in the survey. These participants come from 20 villages in 11 sub-counties in and around Mayuge and Jinja, including Baitambogwe, Magamaga, Mafubira, Kagoma, Mayuge, Bukatube, Buwenge, Wairasa, Imanyiro, Kakira, and Butagaya.

- We also donated emergency food to 50 vulnerable households, particularly those with pregnant and postnatal women and young mothers.

Challenges

- We experienced some difficulty in reaching some women leaders (Nabakyalas) during the delivery of Maama Kits. These women leaders were involved in helping us to identify the vulnerable women in their communities who couldn't afford to purchase these kits themselves.
- The number of pregnant mothers usually exceeded the number the number of Maama Kits and Baby Receivers available for distribution. This made the selection of those to be supported extremely difficult for our staff.
- Covid-19 pandemic restrictions led to the closure of our offices, temporarily putting all our activities on hold. One of the projects concerning menstruation was stopped altogether due to the closure of schools.
- Some of the women and girls who were trained in pad making had challenges with hand sewing which slowed down the training process.

Group Savings

Achievements

- Group savings and loan acquisition programs were conducted among 8 groups. The table below shows the progress of these groups in Q2 2020.

Group	Total Savings	Loans Taken	Loans Returned	Interest
Nakalanga group 1	6,770,000	900,000	2,582,000	262,000
Nakalanga group 2	5,205,000	340,000	8,602,300	506,000
Magamaga group	1,854,000	2,750,000	1,376,000	240,000
Mauta group	1,843,200	340,000	1,192,300	1,192,300
Wairaka group 1	847,000	365,000	460,000	32,000
Wairaka group 2	786,000	1,743,000	585,000	195,000
Wabulungu group	343,000	70,000	66,500	12,000
Bukoli group	120,500	0	242,500	4,000
Bugodi group	310,000	50,000	20,000	0

Challenges

- The Covid-19 pandemic affected most member's livelihoods, negatively impacting their incomes and saving.

Recommendations

- Provide business resilience training during emergencies and introduce an emergency fund that members can borrow from so they can preserve their business capital.

Photo Gallery



Distribution of Maama Kits to pregnant women and teenage girls in Bukoli



Capacity building training on Interpersonal Group Therapy for CCUg staff.



Staff being trained in Interpersonal Group Therapy



Staff being trained in soap making



Soap made by staff

END