



Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern Uganda (SCOEN)

6/9/2018



**SHARE CHILD
OPPORTUNITY
EASTERN AND
NORTHERN
UGANDA**

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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Acronyms

SCOEN	Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern Uganda
VSLAs	Village Savings and Loans Associations
GBV	Gender Based Violence
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

INTRODUCTION

This annual report 2016 is intended to share a record of what the organisation set to do and accomplished during the year. It highlights the context in which SCOEN UGANDA worked; a record of the programmes implemented and achievements; a financial report; existing management and staff members and a list of the publications among others.

While having a regional outlook SCOEN UGANDA works in Soroti districts.

WHERE SCOEN UGANDA WORKS – ENTIRE SOROTI DISTRICT



A WORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Members of SCOEN UGANDA, with great pleasure I present to you the Network's annual report for the year 2016. This was a year of a lot of great achievements that have largely contributed to the rebranding of SCOEN UGANDA. Together with all our development partners, we are very proud to be part of SCOEN UGANDA's history and making a difference to the lives of millions of Ugandans, in particular women and children.

Despite some challenges SCOEN UGANDA is still able to rally the children and women of Teso to speak with one voice and take concerted effort to uplift their status in the region. I take this opportunity to congratulate the gallant people who have continued to fight against all forms of oppression in all its manifestations.

As we committed ourselves in the Strategic Plan, 2015-2020, SCOEN UGANDA is going to work hard to make the organisation more visible and relevant to all its stakeholders. During the course of the year, various initiatives have been undertaken at the community levels, in strong collaboration with the stakeholders and development partners. I express my sincere gratitude to all the members of SCOEN UGANDA, the Board and most importantly the staff who have turned our ideals into reality.

More than ever before, SCOEN UGANDA is recognized as a unifying force and an authority on children and women's policy issues. We commit ourselves to continue serving all our stakeholders in this regard and ensuring that the children and women's concerns are effectively dealt with at levels of policy making and implementation. I call upon our major partners in the Executive, the Parliament and Judiciary to continue trusting us in our struggle.

I believe that together we can ensure that all Ugandans live in harmony and with dignity.

Mrs. Okwalinga Grace – Chairperson Board

A Message from the Executive Director



It my pleasure to present SCOEN Uganda's 2015 Annual Report along with its, 2016 work plan. It presents an overview of its work and accomplishments in an effort to bring health, education and safety to women and children in Uganda. SCOEN Uganda has been engaged in programs/projects that:

Increase access to information on human rights, gender based violence and gender equality to women, girls and general community.

Build the capacities of households, institutions and the community in SCOEN program area in reporting and handling GBV incidences

Education Sponsorship for 15 children

Provide the target population with socio-economic livelihood skills to improve family food security and nutrition, access to clean energy for cooking

Develop and spearhead a mechanism for integration networking, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of GBV interventions created and policies effectively working in SCOEN Programme area.

Throughout 2016, we have been reached and built capacity of: 3,680 households within community through drama and peer education, 853 stakeholders/staff/women through trainings/workshops/monitoring reviews/meetings. From the consultations and dialogue, we modified our thematic areas for the year 2016 – 2018 to: Child protection, Maternal Child Health, Water, Hygiene & sanitation, Youth Economic Empowerment and gender equality I would like to immensely thank all SCOEN Uganda's proactive and committed staff, our implementing and funding partners, direct and indirect beneficiaries and other stake holders who have worked tirelessly to make 2015 a success in impacting the lives of women and children in Uganda. I look forward to another year of great work in 2017

Sincerely

Ijangolet .H. Florence – Executive Director

Vote of Thanks



Thank You, from the Field

My initial reaction to Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern has been one of respect and awe for all the work being done -between the households, Care giver's Income Generating Group in the form of VLSAs, and the Community Garden Project. On behalf of Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern Uganda I thank you for your continued support and encouragement in our efforts to build a safe and positive environment to honour women and Children.

Haron Lucas Akol

Partner Relations Officer

ABOUT SCOEN

Promoting Child Protection to end Child Poverty

SCOEN's aim is to be an extraordinary agency in providing an atmosphere within which transformation of our children, family and team members occurs, allowing them to reach their full potential in a safe and nurturing environment.

Vision:

Empowering women and children to foster holistic development

Mission

To attain gender equality in a Ugandan local community through promoting the social, political, educational and economic participation of women and children in community development programs.

SCOEN strives to create a future in which all Ugandan women will be viewed and treated equally as men in all aspects of life; political, economic, social, educational and culturally. We will also seek to continue our role as advocates of children and women's rights, promoter of their capacities and driving force of social change.

Core values:

- ☞ Service excellence
- ☞ Trust
- ☞ Respect
- ☞ Hope
- ☞ Integrity
- ☞ Innovation

CONTEXT WITHIN WHICH SCOEN OPERATE

The aftermath of Northern and Eastern long running conflicts has destroyed the region's Asset including infrastructures, and engulfed many lives while displacements still to continue due to the periodically sliding conflicts and the rapidly political changes which the country let to become host mass destruction of public and private sectors, chaotic, weak administration and weak rule of law and without effective implementation.

These prolonged civil conflicts in Teso Sub Region have fostered a lost generation who has no experience of a kind of effective Government and poor access to basic social services particularly education and employment opportunities.

The most victims of the war, cattle rustling amongst youth, women and children Therefore, to enable all Teso community to make choices about the way that they want their region to be governed and lead prosperous future

So in response to this, the Leadership of Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern Uganda, together with the well-wishers came up with an idea of supporting the women and children whose parents were victims of war, HIV/AIDS, Cattle rustling and drought in Teso region to engage protection on human rights, humanitarian issues, developments and Capacity Buildings with action research which based on participatory approach by all the levels of the community on their priorities for the future through SCOEN.

Our Contributors

Thank you to all of our donors, including those who have chosen to remain anonymous, for your ongoing commitment to Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern Uganda. Our gratitude also goes to those who have supported the organization and our Care Giver's Income Generating Group by making a purchase.

Thank you to our entire major Contributors, monthly individual donors, one time donors, gift in kind donors. We could not do this work without you, and for your loyal support we are immensely grateful. Thank you our founder members who generously donated monthly to support SCOEN.

Development Partners

Kitchen Charities Table Trust, UK.

Global Giving

Givingway

Dave Bonner and Cathie UK

Graham Robbin UK

Moley Kettie USA

GBV Prevention Network

We are grateful to the various District authorities and Government departments for their cooperation, moral and technical support in addressing the problem of vulnerable children.

We thank all the different volunteers and interns who visited the organization and worked with us.

Your interaction with us brought in new insights and energy in our work.

We thank all the children, staff and the Board of Directors for their commitment to the work of restoring the lives of children and single mothers.

Finally, we thank God who provided for us throughout this year.

FOCUS AREA I: Child Protection

SCOEN seeks to ensure that all children are protected from all forms of exploitation, neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse through effective national and community based child protection systems.

Child protection is a key component of SCOEN programmes. It cuts across all our project implementation and advocacy and we have continued to make great strides toward strengthening child protection systems.

Our priorities in Child Protection: -

- *Communities working together to protect children*

One of SCOEN's key strengths is its close and long-term collaboration with communities and bringing communities together to drive long-term change. This has helped us gain important insights into how to strengthen community-based child protection mechanisms and how to link them effectively to government mechanisms. This work is now one of our global priorities for the coming years.

We recognise that communities, families and children themselves are an integral part of any effective child protection system. As such, we focus on bringing the participants together to collaborate in building a long-term protective environment for children in the communities where we work.

We also support collective action by community members against harmful practices and discrimination towards specific groups or individuals. We enable community members to monitor issues and advocate for change amongst local and national duty-bearers and service providers.

- *Families providing care and protection*

Families and caregivers are a key safety net for children. By supporting and prioritising them, we can help ensure they are in a stronger position to create and maintain a positive family environment, and play a critical role in the holistic development of children.

We work with families and caregivers as active participants in positive parenting and to develop a better understanding of the causes and effects of violence against children, including harmful practices. This forms a foundation on which to develop their commitment to tackling violence against children in families.

- *Governments developing integrated child protection systems and services*

We support robust research to provide evidence for appropriate government action on child protection. This involves working in collaboration with national and district authorities to establish, improve and enforce appropriate child protection legislation and policies.

We also work in alliance with other civil society organisations to monitor and advocate for comprehensive, integrated child protection systems, and support and engage with regional and international bodies and networks to promote adherence to recognised international instruments and standards.

Our aim is for staff in child-related services, such as education, health, social services and police/judiciary services, to be more aware of violence against children and to be better able to identify, prevent and respond to it. Together, we aim to improve public monitoring and information systems on child protection issues, and are encouraging collaboration and dialogue between communities and child protection services. This includes identifying gaps and ways to improve services.

- *Children and youth contributing to their own protection*

We are committed to supporting children to be more knowledgeable, committed and confident to recognise, prevent and seek help for all forms of violence against them, and to make them more aware of the protection services and support mechanisms that are available to them.

Key to our approach is supporting children to unite against peer-on-peer violence including bullying and gender-based violence, to mobilise around child protection issues and to work in partnership with civil society and service providers to end violence. We also support them in protecting themselves in emergency situations, creating opportunities for them to speak out and influence others about their right to protection, and building their confidence to achieve this.

Behaviour change communication and human rights

SCOEN Uganda's behavior change communication and human rights program focuses on a number of issues ranging from community education and advocacy for the rights of women and girls as human rights, prevention of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces, referral and linkage of survivors of gender based violence to specialized service providers for follow up support aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls. We were able to contract one drama group at Awoja, designed IEC materials and conduct community dialogue meetings as indicated in the table below.

Development and translation of drama scripts on human rights, GBV and gender equality

SCOEN Uganda in consultation with the beneficiaries and stakeholders in communities we operate in, have been pioneering designing of drama scripts. So far, only basic messages have been designed that the drama group contracted use to educate community. Due to inadequate funds, the scripts are still in process of being developed. Nevertheless, the drama group has still continued to educate community through tailor made messages and with the help of community volunteers and other avenues like community dialogue meetings.

Contract drama groups to educate and create awareness on human rights, GBV and gender equality

Awareness and education is done through music, dance and drama, video shows, peer education and small group discussions. SCOEN Uganda supports community based women music dance and drama (MDD) groups to conduct drama shows to educate communities. The MDD shows are reinforced with Peer-to-peer education and, and follow-up and referral for clients.

By the end of 2015, one drama group comprising of both men and women (7male and 18 female) had been contracted to educate communities. Their education activities target issues in relation to rejection of myths, misconception, and fight against unnecessary HIV/AIDS related discrimination, empowerment of PLWAs to promote rights and to inform them about available HIV/AIDS services. Attention of all people in general and those in authority in particular to accept the reality of HIV and to recognize the rights of PLWAs will be drawn. Moving forward, SCOEN Uganda will continue to work with this group and also facilitate community volunteers to continue educating community because this drama group has empowered community in various capacities.

Designing and printing IEC materials

Through consultative meetings, trainings and dialogue with implementing partners, beneficiaries and other stake holders, SCOEN Uganda was able to design and print 5 assorted IEC materials incorporating all the program areas. The materials were in form of leaflets and banners. Also 50 T-shirts were printed and distributed to community volunteers and other beneficiaries

Capacity Building and Support for Survivors

Despite great strides made by the international human rights activists, existing legislation, legal provisions and gender responsive policies advocating for women's rights worldwide, many remain at risk with no protection, access to critical services or avenues to seek justice. Better services survivors of GBV including access to medicine, counseling and other support(s) care are needed. SCOEN Uganda in partnership with other stakeholders' builds capacity of GBV survivors and supports initiatives by women affected by Gender Based Violence to demand their rights and involve more and more women and other stakeholders in campaigns and education activities.

2017 – 16 Days of Activism Campaign

Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern Uganda (SCOEN) received The Action and Advocacy Kit from GBV Prevention Network, where by SCOEN is a member.

The Kit contained the following materials that organizations will use for their activism:

- Up to 200 full color posters
- A Poster Discussion Guide aimed at facilitating discussions within your community
- "Prevent Violence Against Women" purple ribbons
- "Prevent Violence Against Women" bandanas for your public events
- A Campaign Information Sheet
- A Worksheet for organizations to tailor the campaign to the reality of their context
- A Campaign Activity Guide suggested creative activities that organizations used to prioritize the retention of girl's in school
 - Media Talking Points



Every year the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence Campaign coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership heightens awareness of gender-based violence as a human rights violation across the globe. The global

campaign focused on the right to education in situations of violent conflict and relative peace, and in various education settings.

At the regional level, the GBV Prevention Network focused on the retention of women & girls in the education system and explored discrimination and experiences of violence constrain girls' ability to remain in and/or benefit from the current education system. Members of the Network urged leaders and community members to ensure girls remain in school and complete their education.

Focus Area II: Water Hygiene & Sanitation

Our priorities in Water, hygiene and sanitation

- Access to clean water and sanitation
- Community led total sanitation
- Integration
- Working with government and institutions

Water Situation

Project implemented by SCOEN funded by Kitchen Charities Table Trust

Girl friendly latrines to boost girls school attendance

Overriding goal of the project is to ensure that Girls from the selected schools in



Northern Division, Arapai and Gweri Sub Counties in Soroti District, Eastern Uganda will not have to miss school simply because they are menstruating. The project aims to install sanitary facilities by construction 5 VIP Latrines each with a water tank, well-furnished changing room (tap water from the tank) for girls, and provision hand washing facilities to support vulnerable children and youth, 4

school in Northern Division, Gweri and Arapai Sub County will get a 4 stances pit-latrines with two washing facilities each.

Project objectives:

- To improve school attendance among pupils between the ages of 10 and 17 years in primary;
- To increase access to vulnerable adolescent girls with sanitary towels and comprehensive menstrual hygiene management knowledge and risk awareness of HIV/AIDS among in-school and out of school girls between the ages 10 to 17 years;



- To increase the self-esteem of needy boys and girls between ages 10 to 17 years;
 - Provide the required toilet and sanitation facilities, exclusively for the use of girls, in proportion to the number of girls in the schools.
 - Undertake the required capacity building and training of local personnel to ensure the smooth implementation and sustainability of the intervention. Female teachers will be identified and trained to train the girls on menstruation cycles and care for menstruation periods
- Undertake initial planning on the future expansion of sanitation facilities to water-closet type facilities when piped water might be available and provide guidelines which might be used to implement such an expansion.
 - The provision of safe water and sanitation facilities in schools is a first step towards a healthy physical learning environment benefiting both learning and health.

Focus Area III: Youth Economic Empowerment

Economic security policy and advocacy

We believe that creating long-term economic change for children involves working with others to advocate for change at the local, national and global level. We are making significant progress in achieving this in our work. At the national level, we are raising awareness of economic security, facilitating better access to state-funded entitlements and building strategic alliances with governments.

Tackling Youth unemployment

Youth unemployment is an urgent and complex challenge affecting society, the economy and governance globally. More than 600 million young people worldwide are currently not in education, employment or training and by 2030, one billion young people will be entering the labour market. Some 90% of young people live in developing countries where many of them face a future of irregular and informal employment. Large numbers are either over- or under-qualified for the work they do and are paid below average wages.

Unemployment amongst young people creates immediate and long-term economic losses for individuals, their families and communities. With few economic opportunities, young people are more vulnerable to the effects of poverty, and social and political instability rises. To address these critical issues, we are working with governments, international organisations and development organisations to increase and improve young people's access to financial services, financial literacy and entrepreneurship and employment skills training.

Micro-finance and savings groups

Lessons learned: how to set up a village savings and loan association

After setting up a successful savings group pilot in the Arapai Sub County, Soroti, SCOEN share tips for other NGOs starting a VSLA

After it generated more than an average 40% return on investment for savers, showed evidence of benefits for women and reducing tension between ethnic groups, we are scaling up our pilot village savings and loans association (VSLA) programme in the Soroti District.

Despite our successes, the pilot didn't run perfectly, so we want to share what we learned in the hope it might be useful for other NGOs entering this field with little or no prior experience in running VSLAs.

Research and observe

We spent a long time researching different microfinance and microcredit models before opting to explore the VSLA model after concerns about the overheated income-generation claims associated with microfinance. We reminded ourselves that our goal was to include the most disadvantaged groups in the region, people without assets for security, access to social relations, markets and financial literacy.

Savings and loans models were the best option, but we knew there was an “off-the-shelf” attitude to this approach. Having the opportunity to visit local VSLA groups cannot be underestimated – as with many complex programmes, it is only through observation and discussion with participants that one starts to gain a greater understanding of how the ideas can transfer to a different context.

Recruit the right team

The major expenditure related to VSLAs is staff costs. Unexpectedly, we found the appointment of three good field agents (FAs) more important than a strong team leader. The FAs need to have expert knowledge of local power dynamics, and be able to gain the respect and trust of local communities. However, as VSLAs are self-managed, they must also be able to guide rather than impose. Interestingly, we found that recruiting those with too much local influence can result in an awkward power dynamics.

For example, we recruited a well-educated, very thoughtful and well-connected local man who also happened to be a customary chief (local leader). In hindsight, he shouldn't have been recruited – his role as leader came before his VSLA work. It created a hierarchy with VSLA members defaulting to him, rather than feeling comfortable in their own leadership. The other two FAs were younger, from the area, but with no customary leadership roles. The dynamics of these groups were much better.

Tap into the VSLA community

There is a global VSLA community – tap into it. VSL Associates and Savings Groups are the two major VSLA platforms – on these you will find ready-made training materials and online discussion groups. Seek out local VSLA programmes and see if you and your project team can visit them too.

Take a patient, open approach

We stuck very rigidly to the pure VSLA approach, but when we realised the pilot was taking longer than we had planned, we extended the time limit, rather than

rushed to complete before we were ready. Our communities have coped with conflict and displacement, so are very resilient and are used to living with little or no state support, but it still needs to be clear what is expected of all parties. When we visit groups there is still often a request for us to 'help' by topping-up the kitty. This underlines the importance of open dialogue right from the beginning.

Dedicate time and money to monitoring, evaluation and learning



Because we wanted to track not just economic and membership data but impact on nutrition, shelter, education, health, women's empowerment and social status, – monitoring, evaluation and learning has been the heaviest time burden on the team. It definitely needs to be planned and budgeted for.

Scaling up, we have invested in an assistant team leader to support this process. But as field agents built up excellent relationships with VSLA members, the learning gleaned is second to none. Qualitative assessment produced the real surprises, showing there was a consistent shift away from men dominating household decision making to joint decision making between husband and wife. The social benefits of the VSLAs in terms of social cohesion and intra-communal solidarity also seemed to carry as much weight as the financial benefits. And curiously, social norms of who owns livestock appear to be breaking down, with women and lpei groups aspiring to own household development.

Getting feedback from participants also has showed us that we previously had a very limited view of how people manage their financial affairs on the plateau. Other credit and perhaps savings arrangements exist within the communities, and the key thing next is to understand is how VSLAs can improve the process of managing and planning complex lives, rather than imagining VSLAs replace them because they are better.

What was our impact?

Social impact is a notoriously tricky area to measure, and we feel we have only just started to scratch the surface through the findings mentioned above. How did our pilot compare to the performance of VSLAs elsewhere? This is difficult to

say. Pilots tend to be more resource and support intensive, and perhaps coax out better performance than full scale programmes.

We know that there is a conditional VSLA programme also currently in the region that is linked to sending orphans to school. This is not a direct comparison to ours. We had toyed with the idea of explicitly linking the VSLAs to child wellbeing and education, since this reflects our mission as an organisation, but concluded pilots need to be stripped of unwarranted assumptions and external demands.

Finances 2017

Global Giving	21,652,499/=
Members Contribution	3,750,000/=
Kitchen Table Charities Trust	51,562,287/=
Total Funds Received	76,964,786/=

SCOEN Board of Directors 2010

Name	Portfolio	Organisation
Okwalinga Grace	Chairperson	Demonstration School– Soroti
Mr, Eyabu Patrick	Member	Community Development Officer
Robert Odicha,	Treasurer	Deliverance Church Soroti
Hellen .F. Ijangolet	Secretary	Madera Girls School
Joyce Arono	Member	Teso Women Vision

MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Name	Position
Ariokot Agnes	Project manager
Akol Haron Lucas	Partner relations Officer
Ameede Tabitha	Officer Administrator
Acom Immaculate	Accountant
Anyait Judith	GBV Officer
Isiku Anna	Child Development Officer



Girls with their gifts from their supporters from the UK



CDO presenting children gifts to the care takers





Empowering communities in Beekeeping



Share Child Opportunity Eastern and Northern (SCOEN)

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