

Child Protection Report

2020-2021



Action for Children and Young People Uganda
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Child Protection Report 2020&21

What We Believe for Child protection

Children can only become empowered agents of change to improve their lives and that of their families and communities if they are safeguarded from abuse, discrimination and harm of any kind, be it physical, sexual, emotional or neglect.

Our Child Protection Goal

Promote an environment where children and young people are protected from all forms of violence against them

Foreword from the Coordinator

A Time of Unprecedented Challenges (2020-2021)

Dear Friends, Partners, and Resilient Supporters,

The years 2020 and 2021 presented our community, and indeed the world, with unprecedented challenges in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic. This combined annual report for these two extraordinary years reflects not only the significant disruptions we faced at ACYP but also the remarkable adaptability, resilience, and unwavering commitment of our team and partners in safeguarding the children we serve during this turbulent period.

Lockdowns, school closures, and increased economic hardship created heightened vulnerabilities for children, often isolating them from protective networks and increasing their exposure to violence within the home and online. Our traditional methods of outreach and engagement were severely impacted, demanding innovative and agile responses to continue our vital work.

Despite these immense obstacles, ACYP remained steadfast in its mission. We rapidly adapted our strategies, leveraging technology to maintain contact with vulnerable children and families, providing remote psychosocial support, collaborations with schools, health facilities, the police, district probation, and community development offices took on new forms, with virtual meetings and coordinated efforts to address the emerging needs of children in lockdown.

It highlights the challenges we encountered in reaching the most vulnerable, the lessons we learned about the evolving risks children faced, and the innovative solutions we implemented to ensure their safety and well-being.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated volunteers, who navigated uncharted territory with unwavering dedication and compassion. Our partners in government and the community rose to the occasion, demonstrating exceptional collaboration in the face of adversity.

While the pandemic presented profound difficulties, it also reinforced the critical importance of our work and the strength of our collective commitment to child protection. As we emerge from this period, the lessons learned and the partnerships forged will continue to shape our approach as we strive to build an even stronger and more resilient child protection system within our community.

With sincere gratitude and enduring hope,

Micheal Mwebaza

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About ACYP Uganda

Our Vision



A world where underprivileged children and young people have the opportunities to fulfil their life ambitions.

Our Mission



To empower children and young people in Uganda by enabling access to quality education, healthcare, nutritious food, economic opportunities, and fostering environmental sustainability

Our Values



- a) Love and Care
- b) Dignity and Respect
- c) Inclusiveness
- d) Empowerment
- e) Research and Evidence
- f) Collaboration and Partnership

Programme Overview: Child Protection Initiatives

For the year 2020-2021, some child protection initiatives were put on hold until October 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic and continued lock downs.

STOPPED ACTIVITIES DUE TO COVID-19 LOCK DOWNS

- 1- Awareness Raising and Education initiatives (Community Sensitization Workshops,
- 2- Public Awareness Campaigns
- 3- School-Based Awareness Programs:
- 4- Empowering Children (Child Rights Education, Life Skills Training, Peer Support Programs, Participation in Decision-Making)
- 5- Engaging Communities and Building Protective Environments

INITIATIVES THAT HAVE CONTINUED THROUGH 2020-2021

6. Health Facility Engagement
 - Providing information to parents and guardian during home visit
 - Distributing leaflets and posters on child protection in waiting areas.
7. Strengthening Families and Caregivers
 - Home Visits and Support: Providing targeted support and guidance to vulnerable families to strengthen their capacity to care for and protect their children.
8. Economic Empowerment Initiatives
 - Implementing programs that aim to reduce poverty and financial stress within families, as economic hardship can be a contributing factor to violence and neglect. This could include vocational training, micro-loan schemes, or support for income-generating activities.
9. Collaboration and Networking:
 - Strengthening Partnerships: Building and maintaining strong relationships with government agencies (police, probation, social welfare), other NGOs, faith-based organizations, traditional authorities, and community-based organizations working on child protection.
 - Joint Awareness Campaigns and Activities: Collaborating with partners to amplify messages and reach a wider audience.
 - Information Sharing and Referral Systems: Establishing clear referral pathways and protocols with partner organizations to ensure children receive appropriate support services.
 - Advocacy: Engaging in advocacy efforts at local and potentially national levels to promote child protection policies and legislation.

Key Achievements and Impact in 2020-2021

Program and Activities for Child Protection 2020-2021	No. Conducted	No. Impacted
School Outreach Program		
Conducting age-appropriate sessions for students	0	00
Establishing and supporting child protection clubs within schools	0	00
Training teachers and school staff on identifying signs of abuse, reporting procedures, and creating a child-safe environment.	0	00
Developing and implementing school policies on child protection.	0	00
Organizing school-wide events promoting child safety and well-being.	0	00
Health Facility Engagement		
Providing information to parents and caregivers visiting health facilities	4	78
Distributing leaflets and posters on child protection in waiting areas.	0	00
Training healthcare workers to recognize signs of abuse and neglect and understand referral pathways.	0	00
Parenting skills training	0	00
Home visits and support:	78	360
Child Protection Stakeholders Meetings		
Establishing child protection committees	0	0
Monitoring existing child protection committees	2	8
Community stakeholders meeting held	0	0
Safe spaces created	0	0
Safe spaces strengthened	0	0
Collaboration And Networking		
Contacting of other partners	2	2
Referring of victims of abuse	2	2
Joint campaigns with other partners	0	0
Empowering Children Through Clubs		
Establishing clubs	0	0
Monitoring and strengthening clubs	0	0
Conducting child rights sessions at clubs	0	0
Economic Empowerment		
Vocational training/apprentice under artisans	3	3

Micro-loan schemes	0	0
Support for income-generating activities	15	75
Case Management		
Identified Cases Of Violence Against Children	7	7
Handling of Cases including referred cases	15	15

Programme Activities in Detail

Prevention of Violence Against Children:

Awareness Campaigns	No campaigns conducted, No workshop conducted, No training conducted
Community Sensitization Workshops	
Parenting Skills Training	

School Outreach Programme:

Number of schools visited	School closed for Covid-19, No session done, No club monitored
Teacher training sessions	
Establishment/Strengthening of school child protection clubs	

Health Facility Engagement:

Number of health facilities engaged	Four health facilities were visited on child and adolescent days. Although youth talks about behavioural management and adherence were conducted, no training for health workers was done, we enabled the referral system to work between facilities especially in cases of covid-19. 78 parents benefited health talks of our volunteers, 78 households visited 360 benefited
Training for healthcare workers on child protection and identification of abuse	
Referral pathways established/strengthened	
Awareness materials distributed to parents/caregivers	
Information to parents	
Home visit for adherence	

Child Protection Stakeholder Meetings:

Number of meetings held	Joint meetings were not held between stakeholder, however ACYP volunteers continued to meet with individual stakeholders like the police. In total 22 cases were handled. 18 were referred to the police, 2 were handled in partner with probation office and 2 were managed at office level. All cases were successfully
Key stakeholders involved (police, probation, community development, traditional leaders, etc.)	
Key issues discussed and action points agreed upon	
Collaboration efforts and outcomes	

completed with culprits reprimanded, some prosecuted while others given warned.

Case Management and Support:

Number of cases reported to the organisation (disaggregated by type of violence, gender, age if possible)	22 in number constituted the cases reported and handled by ACYP. 3 were sexual, 13 were physical, 4 were emotional and 2 were neglect. All were handled through our case management process.
Description of the case management process	The police, probation office, CDO's and health workers were instrumental in supporting the process from the start to the end. Legal support was thought and happily provided by a free legal service provider in Masaka. The support provided included, PSS, referral for medical, transportation of survivors. Some of the case were not reported or handled at family levels and these were difficult to track down.
Collaboration with police, probation, and community development offices (number of joint efforts, outcomes)	
Support provided to child survivors (e.g., psychosocial support, referrals for medical care, legal assistance)	
Challenges faced in case management	

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- The limited interaction due to lock-down.
- Some professional who were out of work and did not have money reported that they could not make phone calls to report
- Staying home for many ours resulted into GBV which increase violence against children as well

Looking Ahead for 2022

- Prioritizing genuine community participation and ownership.
- Strengthening inter-agency collaboration and coordination mechanisms.
- Investing in comprehensive and ongoing training for all involved personnel.
- Focusing on primary prevention strategies alongside response mechanisms.
- Ensuring child participation in all stages of the program cycle.
- Fostering long-term partnerships and sustainable solutions.

Acknowledgements

- I would like to thank our volunteer who endured the Covid-19 pandemic and sailed through the storm. Special thanks to the local government, especially the District Health Officer (DHO) who enabled us travel and reach the most vulnerable. Also ACYP appreciates the Police and partners and child protection committees and community

Appendices

Appendix 1:



ACYP volunteer During a Parent talk at a health facility