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LEADING CHANGE UGANDA
ANNUAL REPORT

2020

INTRODUCTION

The Purpose of this Annual Report is to review the work of Leading Change Uganda (LCU) throughout 2020. Over that year, LCU experienced great success and challenges in pursuing its passion to change the world, working with three communities in Wakiso district of Central Uganda. As a result, the women and children of Buwaali, Buso and Bbanga villages have been seeing their lives transformed through empowerment to use the little resources they have to change their lives and their communities at large.



Field Coordinator Ms. Florence Namubiru handing out food items to an elderly lady Ms. Nalwonga during the three-month country lockdown due to COVID-19

ABOUT US

Leading Change Uganda

LCU is a non-for-profit, nonpartisan, non-governmental organization, based in Wakiso district. It was formed in January 2013 by a group of young people who hoped to create the change they wanted to see in the world particularly for the women and children. LCU is inspired by the idea that the world should be a better place for everyone, regardless of their sex, age, religion, color and nationality. The organization was registered as a limited company by guarantee without shares; it was incorporated on 7 December 2016 (certificate of registration number 80020000007536) and registered with the National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organizations on 7th of August 2019 (certificate of registration number 3090). The mandate of the organization is to create positive change in the lives of women and children. LCU strives to empower them to effectively engage in

social and economic development through entrepreneurial and financial training, access to education, information and other basic needs to improve their standard and quality of living.

Mission

Our mission is to build and strengthen individuals, families, institutions and community initiatives for poverty eradication, education and development through partnerships at all levels.

Vision

“An informed, educated, empowered and just society”



Main objectives:

1. To contribute towards poverty alleviation in Uganda.
2. To promote access to education and improvement in basic needs while imparting life and entrepreneurial skills.
3. To promote sustainable development while strengthening and empowering our communities.

Other objectives:

1. To provide education support to the underprivileged through scholarships, building and running schools and orphanages.
2. To enhance livelihood among the urban poor and providing agri-business and advisory services
3. To operate a revolving micro-finance scheme for poverty eradication among the society
4. To undertake income generating activities aimed at funding the activities of the organization and to equip communities with entrepreneur skills.

Thematic Areas of Focus

- Economic empowerment for women and girls
- Education
- Climate justice
- Poverty
- Microfinance

Our team

LCU is made of a dynamic team with vast knowledge and a passion to change the world. The team is made up of individuals from different parts of the world who work hard to see that LCU achieves its objectives. They invest in the organization to see that others live a better life, creating the change they would want to see in the world.

“Our team is passionate about putting a smile on another person’s face.”

OUR PROGRAMS

LCU conducted seven projects in 2020:

1. the Wangari Women's Project
2. the Smile of a Child Project
3. the Education for All Project
4. LCU on the Farm
5. the Wangari Women Revolving Micro-Finance Scheme
6. the Community Reading Club
7. the Volunteering project

In short, a number of activities were carried out to improve the lives of the women and children in Buwaali, Buso and Bbanga villages, including fundraising, training, celebrations and sharing the little we had. In 2020, the organization was able to reach 300 women, 50 men and 200 children directly and indirectly.

1. WANGARI WOMEN'S PROJECT

1.1 Meetings

The Wangari Women meet regularly to discuss a number of issues on how to improve on their children's class work and stay focused in school, on how to empower one another financially by becoming peer mentors to one another. Therefore, on 1st February 2020, the women met to discuss the Smile of the Child, Education for All program. The discussion was mainly on the children's performance at school and how to make the program better. One of the key outcomes was that parents should eagerly be part of their children's education at all levels.



Field Coordinator Ms. Florence Namubiru chairing the meeting with the Wangari Women from Buso, Bbanga and Buwaali

1.2 International Women's Day 2020

The 8th of March is the International Women's Day. We celebrated this day by acknowledging some of the women who are changing lives in their various fields in the world. Among them was the LCU team of women changing the lives of children and fellow women. We appreciated their efforts and their work on LCU's Facebook page. And may the good Lord grant them more energy to do the good work they are doing in the world. Our LCU women team of Lillian, Stephanie, Florence, Faridah and Linda. You are indeed our shining stars.



Celebrating our team of LCU women on International Women's Day

1.3 Easter Celebrations 2020

On the 1st of March 2020, we celebrated an early Easter! The beautiful clothes and toys to the children and the Wangari Women donated by Linda Mitchell and LCU friends from Uganda and Scotland came early, though our excitement came to an end as we were not able to give them out in time for Easter because the country was under lockdown due to COVID-19.

1.4 COVID is real! Stay Safe

On the 29th of August 2020, the Wangari Women were urged to wear masks and wash their hands thoroughly as a preventive measure against COVID-19. Linda Mitchell donated handmade masks to LCU to give to the beneficiaries during this trying time where it was not safe to move without masks. The masks helped both the women and youth to move freely and do their work, as it is now a requirement in Uganda for everyone to wear a mask.



Handmade masks made by Linda Mitchell donated to women and youth

1.5 Feeding Project

During this year, the country was put under lockdown because of COVID-19 for 14 days; however, the days continued to see cases of COVID-19 increasing and before we knew it, the country had been put into lockdown for three months. This was a devastating period for most LCU beneficiaries who could not afford food because many people were no longer working, travel movements were banned and schools closed. Among the items provided included salt, sugar, oil, beans, flour, soap and rice.

LCU organized with its partners and friends and raised funds which were able to feed 100 families. The first group of 20 families was visited on the 6th and 8th of April 2020 respectively. The second group of 20 families was visited on the 19th of July 2020 while the last group of 60 families was visited on 28th of July 2020. Among the families visited were 22 elderly women and men of Buso, Buwaali and Banga villages and 20 families of young people taking care of their siblings because some of their parents had been locked down in different places from where they were.

To follow government guidelines on social distancing, the field coordinator visited each family to avoid crowds. During our visits the families were provided with psychological support through counseling and finding ways on how to successfully get out of the lockdown without depression. They were also urged to follow the guidelines provided as one of the preventive measures of COVID-19 and meditate on what had been happening in their lives so that by the end of the crisis they could make the world a better place for all of us.

#staysafe and follow guidelines #washing hands is required #socialdistancing because it is our responsibility to save one another



Some of the items given out to families during the three-month country lockdown due to COVID-19: sugar, salt, soap, cooking oil, flour and beans



Food items handed to families of the elderly, youth and women during the three-month country lockdown due to COVID-19

2. SMILE OF THE CHILD PROJECT

2.1 Education for All Program

The program has sponsored 55 children in Nursery, Primary, Secondary School and University. LCU supported 55 children with tuition fees for the whole year 2020. Among the children being supported by LCU, 29 of them go to Hope Nursery and Primary School, 13 of them go to Sundrops Junior School and 12 students attend Namulonge Senior Secondary School. One student is studying at YMCA for a certificate in Early Child Development. The majority of the children were performing much better than last year.

However, COVID-19 led to the closure of schools till 2021. This affected both schools and the students so badly. We therefore urged the parents to homeschool their children using the different education packages we were able to secure from other schools and teachers.

This year, amidst COVID-19, six of our sponsored children were able to sit for their Primary Leaving Exams and three of them sat their Ordinary Level Examinations. Last year LCU was looking for a permanent solution for the slow learners rather than terminating their scholarships. The good news was that, by the end of this year, LCU was able to secure a donation to commence construction of a building where the children will have space for coaching and revision learning to supplement school study. We discuss the new building below.

PLE Leavers

1. Serunjogi Ronald
2. Nakiyemba Jovia
3. Nsubuga Micheal
4. Nakamyia Faith
5. Namuli Mary
6. Tomusange Savior

O'level leavers

1. Nkalubo Micheal
2. Joshua Sekajja
3. Lunkuse Margaret

2.2 Monitoring Visits

LCU continued to monitor its sponsored children by visiting them at home for support during the COVID-19 crisis. During the visits, LCU realized that many children were affected by the crisis and about five were wondering if they would go back to school. A number of girls were taken away from the village because some of their parents thought they would get spoilt by getting married because there was no longer any school.

However, we continue to appreciate our sponsors and everyone who has been kind to support LCU work in any way possible, enabling our children to acquire an education and be in position to change their communities, despite all the challenges.



Namuli Mary a Primary Seven pupil at Hope Nursery and Primary school who was looking forward to doing her final exams in primary level, now at home because of COVID-19. Mary was found at home during one of the monitoring visits reading to her siblings.

2.3 Modern World Nursery and Primary School

The partnership between Modern World Nursery and Primary school and LCU came to an end this year because of poor management of the school by the school Board and Administration. Many complaints were raised by the mothers of the children, which complaints the school failed to address thus the termination of the partnership.

The mothers of the children instead recommended Sundrops Junior School. After a thorough investigation, LCU entered into a partnership with the school this year. The partnership begun with 12 children being sponsored at the school. Based on the school profile, we believe that this school will provide the best education.



Sundrops Junior School children marching through the communities of Buso, Buwaali and Banga in 2019

2.4 Hope Nursery and Primary School

LCU has worked with Hope Nursery and Primary school since 2017 to provide free education to the children of Smile of the Child Project under the Education for All Program. To date, LCU is sponsoring 29 children at Hope Nursery and Primary School, Buwaali. It has been an awesome

journey to see some of the sponsored children graduate from Nursery section to Primary section and from Primary section to Secondary level.

We appreciate every individual working hard to see that every child can access education and be able to fight poverty in this part of the world, thus working towards fulfilling Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 4 (No Poverty and Quality Education).

2.5 Celebrating International Youth Day on 12th of August 2020

The 12th of August 2020 was International Day for Youth all over the world. It was recognized by LCU who acknowledged that it is a great day for youth to make the world a better place. On this day, a group of young people led by Micheal Nkalubo, the Youth and Children Coordinator, cleaned the homes of five elderly people in Buwaali and Buso villages with support from LCU. They slashed and dug the compounds, cleaned the houses, washed clothes and utensils and fetched for them water. After helping the elderly, the team provided them with gifts of food and soap donated by LCU.



3. LCU ON THE FARM

This project provides learning opportunities to the youth and women of Buwaali, Banga and Buso villages on animal rearing and farming.

3.1 Animal farming

This is done through donating animals such as piglets, goats, sheep among others to the women and youth to look after them. When the animals give birth, the women and youth share with LCU according to the terms of the contracts signed.

LCU selects the women and youth to work with based on trust and interest. So far about 10 women and three young people have gained work through this arrangement. The arrangement has enabled the beneficiaries to acquire rearing skills; it has also provided an opportunity to LCU to create a model animal farm where youth, children, Wangari women and other community members are able to get hands on skills and share experiences. Thus, the project is used as a way to empower the women and children supported by LCU to fight poverty.

By the end of 2020, the animal farm had one bull, one goat, one sheep and six pigs. The pigs are distributed among four women of the Wangari Women Project and two among the youth. The goat, bull and sheep project is managed by Tomusange Daniel, a sponsored child of the Education for All Program. The project includes one bull, one goat and one sheep.



The animals under the LCU on the Farm Project



Tomusange Daniel feeding the bull

3.2 Crop farming

The farmland acquired in 2019, on which 50 banana plants were planted in 2020, was enclosed this year. By the end of the year, LCU had harvested 10 bunches of bananas of which five were sold off to raise funds for Administration costs.



Enclosing the farmland to avoid encroachment from both animals and humans

4. WANGARI WOMEN REVOLVING MICRO-FINANCE SCHEME

4.1 Savings and Loans

The Wangari women, with the help of LCU, started the Wangari Women Revolving Micro-Finance Scheme in 2018 where money is saved and loans are obtained to help them start businesses, educate their children and improve their health, thus improving their standard of living. This project targets rural women who are uneducated, and socially and economically deprived, in the villages of Buwaali, Buso, Namulonge and Banga in Wakiso district, and who are part of the Wangari Women groups. The scheme is supported through donations, savings, and interest on loans made by members and through collective income-generating projects undertaken by the women, such as farming and tailoring, among others. The profits are used to support the expansion of the Scheme so that it continues to support other Wangari women, thus improving their welfare and that of their families.

This year the scheme had an increase in numbers of individuals interested in saving with it: 94 individuals among which three are husbands to the women members, one youth and 12 children (sponsored children or whose mothers are part of the women groups of LCU). Eighteen loans were given to members for the financial year 2020 and 94 members diligently saved with the Scheme. The small loans granted enabled members to start small, individual business projects, take their children to school, real estate, and nutrition among others. However, there was a reduction in borrowing and savings this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Godfrey Serwanga, a beneficiary of the Scheme showing how he used his loan to build a pigsty for his piggery project

4.2 The Financial Literacy Clinics

In the Financial Literacy Clinics, members are equipped with financial knowledge and management. On the 29th of February 2020, LCU met with the group of women and took them through some of the skills to enable them to become financially independent. One skill was to learn how to consistently save as a means to financial independence. The women were taken through the new guidelines set by LCU to make sure that the revolving scheme is run smoothly and benefits every member and how to manage loans. They shared experiences on savings and loan management and thereafter they were provided with loans for agriculture, education, business and school fees.



Faridah, one of our volunteers, talking to the women of the saving club during one of the Financial Literacy Clinics



One of the beneficiaries, working on her project of brickmaking after saving with the scheme, was found at her work station. LCU is very proud of her because LCU believes that women should be empowered financially and economically if we are to break the viscous cycle of poverty in our communities.

5 COMMUNITY READING CLUB

This club supported 60 children who were taught how to read, count and write. The children told stories, which enhanced their listening and concentration skills. Through storytelling, a number of questions were raised which helped the children and trainers to assess their ability to understand, listen and express themselves in English.

One of the key objectives of this club is to enhance the talents of children through sports, music, dance, drama, art and crafts. Therefore, the children were encouraged to use art to make a better world. Through the club, the children were also trained on personal development, personal hygiene and financial management among others.

The children are taught by Nabukalu Joyce with the help of Micheal Nkalubo. Joyce has volunteered her service since 2019 to help to improve the children's school performance. Nabukalu Joyce is a former child of the Smile of the Child Project and Education for All Program. However, this year the club became a necessity for the children in these communities because of the closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, the club helped to keep the children active through sports, reading, providing psychological support and hope for the future until the time that schools are re-opened by the government of Uganda.



Children being taught by Ms. Joyce Nabukalu.

6 BUILDING PROJECT

On the 1st of October 2020, LCU received the great news that a donation had been raised to build a meeting place for the Wangari women and Smile of the Child Project children with a store and LCU's first formal office. The shelter will be used for women to conduct meetings and train in, to host the community reading club for the children to study and read in. The building will also have two small rooms where LCU materials shall be kept such as books, sewing machines, among others.

The building project began on the 9th of November 2020 with clearing and flattening the land, piling up and sorting the bricks, getting ready to build, building the walls and roofing the building. By the end of 2020, the building had been fully roofed and windows installed.

A number of women, youth and children supported by LCU were happily involved in the building project; many were involved in clearing and flattening the land as well as sorting the bricks. It was a lovely moment with smiles, dancing and singing praising God for being great in their lives.

The project is scheduled to be completed in March 2021.



Wangari women with Lillian (LCU CEO) on 9th of November, ready to start on the building project by clearing the land and sorting bricks



Children of the Smile of the Child Project helping to sort bricks and Wangari women singing while praising God for the good he has done through LCU.



Smile of the Child Project children and Wangari women standing in front of the unfinished building; and the roofing of the building.

7 GIFTS/DONATIONS

On behalf of the children and women, we appreciate Linda Mitchell for the support she has given to LCU and families during the difficult time when the country was under lockdown and for the incredible effort she puts in to collect and organize parcels full of clothes, shoes, among other items, sent to us. We appreciate Julia Connely for her in kind contribution to the women and children supported by LCU. We appreciate Rhiannon Taylor for her beautiful, crocheted items donated to the children. We appreciate Meg Annard and Hellen Carstairs for the beautiful items donated to the women and children and Sarah McLaren for the support to see that the parcels reach Uganda. We appreciate Stephanie and Jason Brenker for the financial support given to LCU and families during the time when the country was under lockdown for three months. We finally thank Nancy and Douglas Tripp for their kind donations towards the work of LCU.



Parcels sent by Linda Mitchell to LCU



The delivered items sent by our friends from Scotland and Uganda

8 GIVINGWAY PLATFORM

LCU is registered with the GivingWay Platform to connect with volunteers, donors and other supporters across the globe. On this platform, LCU can receive donations, connect with online volunteers and recruit new volunteers. If you are interested you can check out LCU on this link <https://www.givingway.com/organization/leading-change-uganda> for volunteering opportunities and <https://www.givingway.com/donate/leading-change-uganda> for donations.

9 ONLINE VOLUNTEERS

LCU has worked with online volunteers who do a lot of work from their respective countries such as reviewing documents, updating the website and social media platforms, creating videos to showcase our work, and connecting the organization to likeminded individuals and organizations. They have supported the organization in its administrative work and have enhanced the visibility of the work LCU is doing. Online meetings have been organized via WhatsApp, email and Facebook.

Any individuals interested in joining our team, please do not hesitate to get in touch by email or by sending us a message on Facebook.

10 FUNDRAISING DRIVES

10.1 Wangari Loan Program

Through this program, LCU raises funds through the small interest charged on the loans made out to the participating Wangari women. The interest collected contributes to the management of the scheme, including by catering for costs such as bank charges and by supporting the Field Coordinator and the Loan Programs Coordinator.

10.2 Wangari Project

LCU has raised funds for some of its activities through the tailoring projects undertaken by the women. The tailoring project by the women of Buwaali raised funds through the sale of dresses and reusable sanitary pads to the girls and women of the nearby villages.

10.3 LCU on the Farm

LCU has raised funds for some of its activities through its LCU on the Farm Project where it has sold animals to raise funds.

10.4 Linda Mitchell

Linda fundraised for Smile of the Child Project's 'Education for All' program and secured 55 sponsors for 55 children. She held workshops to groups of ladies and church members about the work of LCU. LCU has received both in kind contributions and funds as a result of her great fundraising drives. Linda taught ladies in different groups in Scotland how to make dresses and reusable sanitary pads and made masks which were later donated to the children of the Smile of a Child Project and the Wangari Women's Group.

We are grateful to all our fundraising partners for their contributions in 2020, which has helped LCU carry out all the programs listed in this Report. We look forward to working together in 2021.

11 SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

- ✓ LCU Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/LeadingChangeUganda/>
- ✓ LCU Instagram: @leading_change_uganda
- ✓ LCU Websites: www.leadingchangeuganda.com
<https://leadingchangeuganda.wixsite.com/home>
- ✓ GivingWay: <https://www.givingway.com/organization/leading-change-uganda>

LCU is looking for a volunteer to manage its Social media platforms. To create an impact in our local communities, we need to be able to showcase our work to the world.

12 CONCLUSION

Let's work together to be the change we want to see in world. Our special thanks go to all the amazing individuals and organizations who have committed their time, ideas, money and in-kind donations to see that Leading Change Uganda achieves its objectives. The journey has not been a smooth one; the organization and the women faced a number of challenges in 2020 but have also learned a number of lessons which will make 2021 a better year. It is our right and obligation to work hard and change the world in the best way we can.