

CHILD RESTORATION OUTREACH (CRO) UGANDA

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 2019



WE ARE WHO WE ARE BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT

CRO's mission is "To rebuild the lives of street children, restore and reconcile them with God and their families, empowering them to become

A social worker talking to street children during a day survey



BRIEF INTRODUCTION ABOUT CRO UGANDA

CRO was established in Mbale Municipality in Eastern Uganda in 1992, is now operating in three other towns of Jinja in Eastern Uganda, Masaka in southern Uganda and Lira in Northern Uganda. The focus of CRO in these newer centres continues to be contributing to addressing the issue of Children Living on the Street (CLOS) while empowering those in targeted communities.

CRO's existence is grounded on the transformation of the life of CLOS, their families and communities principally through rehabilitation, reintegration and resettlement interventions. CRO enrolls the resettled children for vocational and formal education in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. In line with its Christian philosophy, it champions the fundamental rights of CLOS and in targeted communities' as people of God, created to live a life of dignity in society.

CRO employs an inclusive implementation approach that involves working with a spectrum of stakeholders including; the parents/guardians, community leaders, CSOs, Local Governments, the private sector, law enforcement personnel and other partners to advocate for the rights of CLOS and in targeted communities' and to raise resources to enable them enjoy their rights to clothing, education, food, health, shelter and protection.

CRO's core theme for 2019 was "Achieving Better Realization of Rights of Children Living on the Streets and in Targeted Communities".

The vision is "Children formerly living on the streets and in targeted communities, holistically transformed into God fearing, empowered, productive and responsible members of society".

The mission is "To rebuild the lives of children formerly living on the streets and empowering those in targeted communities through realization of their rights, while reconciling them with God and their families".

The overall goal is "Contribute towards increased and better rights realization outcomes of children formerly living on the streets and in targeted communities".

ABOUT CHILD RESTORATION OUTREACH UGANDA

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Acting National Coordinator's Message.

On behalf of the National Board, the management, staff and on my own behalf, sincerely and earnestly convey our heartfelt gratitude to the family and friends of the late Christine Marth Kamiti who passed on 21st/July/2019. Christine had served CRO for the past 27 years and propelled CRO to where it's today. We shall forever be grateful to her work and dedication towards the street children whom she served with a lot of passion and humility. We shall always miss your motherly guides that made so many young men and women of this nation. Rest in peace Christine.

Today, CRO is in an exemplary Organization and my thanks go to the skills and commitment of our teams, across the four branches which remain dedicated to providing quality service to all our beneficiaries (street children). As the new Acting National Coordinator, I am proud of CRO. Proud of an organization that was able to professionalize itself and adapt to the challenges of our times while staying attentive to what we do best: contributing to the wellbeing of the street children, caregivers and the different communities that we have been able to reach.

We need to keep up this work, day after day. We need to reinforce our position while remaining united and committed to our mission. At the same time, we must keep in mind that our organization does not exist on its own, but through the interaction and integration of the people who are part of it. It is our reason for being: people. Those that we are committed to helping. Those who trust us, who support and fund us.

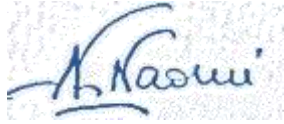
And last but not least, all those who are the arms, legs, head and heart of our organization: our employees and collaborators around the world. All of them have the same spirit of solidarity and commitment anchored within them. But in order for them to give the best of themselves, it is essential to put in place people management policies which allow us to ensure well-being at work. Therefore, it's my prayer that the National board together with other stake holders will find time and review some of the policies that have lagged us behind in serving our people better.

In 2019, CRO continued to strengthen its programs in terms of the Day and night surveys, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, Psychosocial support, Medical support, Nutrition and Recreation. Also, our community program has continued grow especially the SHG approach. We have been able to advocate for the rights of children both at the community level and the district. Networking and collaboration with other like-minded NGOs and CSOs was at the forefront of the agenda.

This year has been a year of many challenges as CRO. We are conscious of remaining needs-based and are thus constantly guided by the specific needs of the street children and the community. We have seen a tangible positive difference in the lives of the street children working and staying on the streets and those in formal school particularly evident in their level of motivation, their creativity and their commitment.

We thank our donor partners for entrusting us at Child Restoration Outreach (CRO) to provide a service on its behalf to street children and to the disadvantaged communities. I believe and pray that our partnerships will continue to grow and bear more fruits.

Thank you,



Mrs. Naomi Watiti

Acting National Coordinator CRO

CHILD RESTORATION OUTREACH (CRO) ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2019

1. Day and Night surveys: Through 16 Day and 16 Night surveys (4 day and 4 night for each project) that were conducted in 2019, CRO was able to reach out to 1,156 (253 girls and 903 boys) children on the streets of Mbale, Lira, Masaka and Jinja by the help of our committed social workers and volunteers.



Social workers registering street children during the day survey



Street Children sleeping at night

2. Rehabilitation: It's important to note that in 2019, CRO was able to rehabilitate 320 children (198 boys, 122 girls). Mbale had 130 (80 boys and 50 girls) children, Masaka 50 (29 boys and 21 girls), Jinja 60 (42 boys and 18 girls), and Lira 80 (47 boys and 33 girls). The numbers reduced slightly due to limited funding. However, our emphasis was focused on helping these children in numeracy, literacy, life skills and behavior change. Rehabilitation enabled children to reform and drop street habits. As a result, 127 children successfully completed catch up classes which prepares them to join formal education or informal Vocational Training. The 3 children who did not complete rehabilitation relocated to unknown destinations.



Rehabilitation children in CRO Jinja sharing a cake.



3 . Reintegration: In 2019, CRO successfully withdrew from the street and reintegrated a total of 361 children (224 boys and 137 girls) into family-based care hence protecting them from violence, abuse and exploitation associated with street life. Reintegration also provided an opportunity for the children who had left school to re-join and to realize their fundamental right to education alongside other rights and privileges that are enjoyed in family care such as love, care, belonging, food, shelter, proper clothing, clean environment, medical care and others.



Social workers of CRO carrying out the reintegration of street children back into their families.

4. Providing psychosocial support: In 2019, we were able to offer psychosocial support through our social workers to 1,384 (560 girls and 724 boys) in 16,608 counseling sessions across all the 4 CRO centres. At the end of the day, children were able to adjust positively, regain hope, develop self-esteem and improve their social life. Quite a number of children were able to interact freely with their peers and teachers, gave up the bad habits of sniffing fuels and use of other toxications and being more respectful to other people around them.

5. Providing nutritional support to the children: Every day from Monday to Friday, CRO provided nutritious Breakfast and Lunch to all children who came to the centre. Various foods were served to provide a balanced diet to the children. These foods included; maize meals, beans, rice, meat, rice, green vegetables and fruits. A daily average of 580 (377 boys and 203 girls) children accessed meals.



Formal school students having a meal at CRO while the rehabilitation children preparing maize grains.

The meals were provided to promote children's right to food and to prevent them from engaging in dubious activities in pursuit for something to eat. The provision of meals **was useful in keeping children fueled**, energetic and nourished which protected from diet-related illness, such as ulcers and concentration span hence contributing to their

stability and retention on the program. Above and beyond, meals contributed to children's physical and mental growth and development.

6. Medical services: Child Restoration Outreach (CRO) provided medical support to street children and also their caregivers. Among the services provided included emergency care/first aid, sensitization, medical check-ups, dressing of wounds, immunization, psychosocial, treatment of minor illnesses, referrals for major illnesses and follow ups were provided at the centres.



In the year 2019, the clinics handled a total of 12,718 cases (7,705 males, 5,013 female) of which 106 were Ante-natal care cases while 209 were complex cases that were referred to Mbale Regional, Masaka, Jinja and Lira Referral Hospitals for further management. A total of 788 children got immunized (495 boys, 293 girls), while 806 attended health talks. There was also a de-worming exercise amongst the rehabilitation

class and lower primary children and the attendance was 160 (87 boys and 73 girls). On a quarterly basis, Hygiene materials including soap, detergents, toilet paper and scrubbing equipment were procured to foster hygiene at the centre.

Reintegration kits: 361 children (224 boys and 137 girls) received kits to facilitate their stay in family reintegration. The kits were provided at follow up and based on the recommendations of the reintegrating



A family with the reintegration kits

social worker who through other fellow counselors assess the social economic situation of the child through home visits and counseling. The kits comprised of beddings like bed sheets, blankets, mosquito nets and livestock. The kits act as a motivation to children and as a result, a high and positive family retention. The beddings provided have also continued to benefit other children in homes as these are shared. Nevertheless, there were some incidences of loss due to theft and deaths of goats but caregivers were encouraged to make replacements.

Follow up visits: The Reintegration officers with the help of other Social workers were able to follow up 597 (365 boys and 232 girls) in their different homes and in the 4 project areas of Mbale, Lira, Jinja and Masaka. All the reintegrated families were continuously followed up and supported at various periods of the year. These were done through a combination of both physical visits and telephone calls. During follow ups, staff;

- Conducted the Household Vulnerability Assessments and gathered information on the Integration status of children to inform the project on the levels of vulnerability and the appropriate actions needed to improve the welfare of children in family reintegration
- Provided on-going support and counselling to help both children and caregivers to deal with emerging challenges that would otherwise affect family safety and stability.
- Discussed action points from previous visits and generated new action points with the members to improve on reintegration,
- Prepared families on their roles of ensuring those children's rights are respected.

This resulted into improved family functioning, increased safety and increased retention of children.

Recreational activities: Aware that sports and recreation activities are part and parcel of the rehabilitation program, CRO promoted a variety of indoor and outdoor games and sports activities at the centres. These recreation activities were organized to promote children's right to play, strengthen social bonds, teach creativity, teaching loyalty, teaching rules and provide fun. Also, games play a big role in preparing children to face challenges, increase their determination and quicken their recovery from traumatic experiences. As a result, 804 (513 boys and 291 girls) children participated and their social skills, physical skills and problem-solving skills are greatly improved. Besides, recreation activities helped children to stay at the centre and participate in other programs which worked simultaneously in favor of their rehabilitation and transformation. On the other hand, recreation resulted into minor cases of injury which were managed by the CRO clinic.

7. Primary Education: Child Restoration Outreach (CRO) in 2019 was able to support 677 (416 boys, 261



Some of the primary school going children supported by CRO

girls) children in primary level education. The children were supported with school fees and scholastic materials to facilitate their learning. CRO ensured that all the stake holders play their part in supporting children with a conducive environment both while at school and homes. It's also important to note that through the provision of the school requirements, children have been able to stay in schools and concentrate on their academics other than

coming back to the streets. 2019 we had 18 (10 boys and 8 girls) children sitting for their primary leaving examinations and all got the grades to take them to secondary schools. Immeasurable thanks to our donors who have been able to see us through.

Secondary Education: 90 (54 boys, 36 girls) were supported with school fees in secondary schools. 10 (5 girls, 5 boys) children/youths were able to complete their (S.4) Ordinary Level Certificate and 1 boy completed Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education examinations. We hope that all of those that sat for National exams will advance to the next level of their education. The other students also performed quite well and all past to join the next class come 2020.



Secondary school students supported by CRO

Tertiary Education: CRO is grateful that in 2019, 27 youths (18 male, 9 female) were supported to pursue different courses in different tertiary institutions. In 2019 alone, 7 youths (4 male, 3 female) successfully graduated with bachelor's degrees in different disciplines. 2 male students graduated with bachelors in education, 1 male graduated with bachelors in information technology and the other graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work and social administration. While us all the 3 girls graduated with a degree in social work and social administration.

Vocational training: The 4 projects of Mbale, Jinja, Masaka and Lira were able to place 133 youths (66 females, 67males) in vocational training after having been given career guidance by their individual counselors on which of the trades would be more appropriate for each of them. Trades mainly; mechanics, tailoring metal fabric and hairdressing. Their training fee and training materials/equipment were provided to facilitate their practice.

The training takes between 6 months and one year and in December 2019, each youth/child was provided with start-up tool kits to begin work. IVT is aimed at giving gainful and meaningful employment to these children/youths. Gaining skills has raised their confidence and uplifted their social status. Some of the trainees especially the tailors and hairdressers have already started applying their skills to assist family members as well as make money in the community which has increased their relevancy and feelings of self-worth. Meanwhile, out of the 133 that completed their course in 2019, 85 of them have found work and now self-sustaining, as the rest are still looking for what to do.



Some of the IVT students that were supported by CRO all through training to graduation.

School monitoring visits: CRO continued to support the education of reintegrating children through the provision of school fees and scholastic materials. At the same time, regular school visits were conducted to enhance the retention of children in schools through candid and focused conversations with different trained school teachers. During the visits, social workers looked at the attendance, academic performance, the discipline of each child, hygiene, child-teacher relationships and participation in co-curricular activities were

obtained and the children were supported accordingly. By the end of third term 2019, we had registered 98 % retention of children in school.

OTHER CRO PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Advocacy for street children: CRO Uganda has had 6 district dialog meetings to advocate for child rights. CRO Lira had 2 meetings and all were aimed at creating an eminence at the district to regulate the hours for the operation of the video halls. CRO Masaka has also been advocating for an eminence to restrict school going children to get involved in the catching of the grass hoppers. It has been noted that most children end up on the streets of Masaka as a result of chasing grasshoppers and selling them on the streets of the town. CRO Mbale has been focusing on the Bagisu traditional circumcision. We have been having a lot of children ending up on the streets and we have been engaging the district and the cultural institution to come up with a way to address this issue.

Day of African Child (DAC) Cerebrations: Child Restoration Outreach (CRO) in 2019 was able to commemorate the Day of African Child with the different districts where our projects are. CRO therefore belatedly held the celebrations on 16th August 2019. The event was celebrated under the theme entitled; **“Humanitarian Action in Africa: Children's Rights First”**. CRO organized 288 (180 boys and 108 girls) children comprising of former street children and CG representatives to participate in the cerebrations. During the event, children used educative entertainment to expose and discourage the child rights violations experienced in their homes, in schools and in the communities. They presented key thematic messages on placards to raise public awareness on children’s rights, advocating for their inclusion in decision making and in community programs. Besides, many children were inspired to continue in the struggle to advocate for their freedoms. Equally important is that, children were able to identify and develop talents in music, poetry and dance. CLAs will continue to mobilize children to advocate for their rights, participate in children’s days and present position papers on issues affecting children so as to promote child rights mainstreaming and realization.

Conducting child protection radio talk shows: Through radio talk shows, children were able to express key issues that affected them at different levels. CRO conducted 16 radio talk shows. These talk shows were a good platform upon which children created public awareness on the child rights realization. All these talk shows were properly timed in the late evening hours and had a big following that was reflected in the many calls made by listeners from various places across region. On many occasions, CRO staff and children were joined by the District probation and Welfare officer to articulate children’s issues.

CRO COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs): CRO Uganda was able to form 55 Self Help Groups (SHGs) with membership of 1,100 community members who happen to be only women. Through out the year, the groups were empowered with knowledge and skills on the Self Help Group concept. This concept has enabled members to do weekly savings and lending to each other. Also, the social agenda has been abig component

in these groups. Issues to do with child protection, positive parenting, family welfare, hygiene and sanitation. As a result, our members in the communities have been able to develop a positive household relationship due to the mutual understanding between husbands, wives and the children. Furthermore, there is financial stability in homes which was not the case before the formation of these groups. Children are attending schools as a result of the mother's contribution. Through the accessibility of small loans, a number of women have come up with retail businesses as a way of being productive in the family.

We are grateful for the Support from the Local authorities and community that has enhanced Self Help Groups. Given the contribution that the SHGs and CLAs have made in the various communities across the 4 project areas, local leaders at the village, parish, Sub County and Districts levels have been able to



appreciate and support the women. In addition, there have been enhanced skills in child protection and child rights throughout all the SHG concept communities. Care givers and local leaders have been taught about child rights i.e. Ensuring that the rights of children like provision of Food, Medical care, Education, Clothing, Housing and parental care and through the prevailing structures, sustainability has been enhanced. All the 55 SHGs are now able to identify causes of street children.

SHG Trainings: The SHG concept which has enabled women groups and individuals to become self-sustaining has been our major focus in 2019 and as a result, we are now looking at extending this concept to other communities that we have not been able to reach in the past. Throughout 2019, CRO carried out 48 trainings across the 4 projects. Some of the topics taught include: Record keeping enhancing proper documentation. This is important because without it, members tend to lose the sense of direction and it reduces conflicts among the members.



Also to mention is the aspect of positive parenting, through these groups, caregivers are able to identify issues in the community especially pertaining to child rights and child abuse and report to the authorities. The members are helped through the group to treat their children well and more so, how husbands and wives can live together respectfully and hence contributed to improved family relations thereby reducing cases of child abuse in their areas.

Integration of Social Agenda: The social agenda is one area that we have put in a lot of efforts simply because, it's where most of the issues are taking place that affect our communities. So during the SHG meetings, issues like; HIV/AIDS, family planning, personal hygiene, sanitation, education, and domestic violence and gender aspects keep resurfacing. The facilitators of the groups keep identifying new areas poverty levels, family relationships, power, succession, property rights, literacy levels employment and earnings. From the training, members were able to understand and embrace the different social attributes of gender which changed their view point of gender issues. At the end of the training, members agreed to adjust their ways of life and improve their community by sharing the lessons learnt with other members.

Parenting outreaches: This is one of those very areas that we keep bringing up again and again given its importance to the group of people and communities we work with. By carrying out parenting outreaches, we know that it's one way of preventing children from coming to the streets. We believe that through reaching

these caregivers in their localities and create awareness through the SHG approach is a more robust way to stopping child abuse. As a result of the above, in 2019, we registered 95% success in preventing children from coming back on streets in communities we have been working with.

CRO was able to reach 9,311(5,112 boys and 4,199 girls) children in all the 4 project areas that we are supporting the vulnerable children. This was possible because of the SHG approach that we adopted to reach the most desired of our communities.

CLA and SHG Exposure and Learning visits: In 2019, CRO focused on the newer CLAs and SHGs to send their representatives to take part in 5 exposure and learning visits to older and experienced groups under Masese in Jinja, Sibanga-Butta Community Development Project in Manafwa and Starch Factory 'A', Adyel division under Obanga Onotowa in Lira district. This was done to enhance experience sharing about their participation in groups. During the visits, members were able to share best practices which improved their knowledge on the approach. This resulted into stronger and well-functioning SHGs and CLAs. In addition, the exposure visits opened links among SHGs/CLAs and strengthened their partnerships.

Formation and training of Cluster Level Associations (CLAs): 11 CLAs were formed in 2019 across all the 4 projects. The newly formed CLAs were trained on the CLA concept and on their roles and responsibilities to boost the capacity of members in carrying out activities. The new and old CLA members now both demonstrate wider knowledge of the approach which they have continuously applied to improve their performance in strengthening SHGs, mentoring CGs and advocating for services in their communities. They have owned the project and continually reduced the need for the Community Facilitators and other outreach workers.

It's also important to note that continuously through the project, other areas like supporting of the book writers were trained on CLA records which aided them to maintain proper records for transparency and accountability purposes to the members. Children's Group mentors and business subcommittees were trained in their respective areas.

CLA Advocacy Talk Shows: Child Restoration Outreach (CRO) facilitated CLA members to conduct 8 advocacy talk shows on the various radios about the different issues affecting their communities and specifically the protection of children against child labor and child protection. These Women having been empowered through their various groups were able to articulate a number of issues on air including child protection concerns obtained from the children's groups. This created public awareness on parenting and best childcare practices. In their talk, they also emphasized appropriate behavior for children both at home and in the community. The noticeable outcome of this is the significant decline in the number of child vendors and child hawkers with a connection to the communities that we have been working with.

Strengthening of Children's Groups: In 2019, we focused more on strengthening the CGs than formation. Its health to note that in 2018 CRO was able to form over 35 children groups and therefore, our target in 2019 was to strengthen the already existing formed groups. CRO continued to support all the 35 CGs through their respective facilitators, to hold their monthly meetings and through these meetings, CGs were able to reflect on their activities, follow-up on previous action points, plan their activities and agree on strategies to address weak areas. The meetings regularly kept children united and strong in their groups as they collectively shared ideas and deliberated on key issues of the groups. These meetings increased children's participation in group

activities created in them a sense of ownership and emphasized the importance of collective action in addressing issues that concern them. These resulted into increased cohesion and trust among CG members.

Community facilitators (CFs): CRO continued to work with 10 community facilitators in the 2 project areas of Mbale and CRO Lira to increase availability of support for the SHGs and CLAs. The other 2 projects of Jinja and Masaka are still entirely dependent on the social workers given the limited funds. The CFs continued to receive a monthly facilitation fee of 60,000 Uganda shillings to facilitate their transport, communication and mobilization expenses. Working with CFs helped to reinforce efforts of staff in implementing, monitoring and reporting of project outcomes. Their efforts have resulted into strong and functional SHGs and CLAs.

CG radio talk shows: CRO conducted 6 radio shows in 2019. Through the support of the CG mentors, a group of 6 children at different intervals held the radio talk shows so as to extend their fight on **child rights issues**. *Altogether in 2019 we had 36 children who participated in the talk shows.* The children were able to articulate child rights issues on the different radios. This exercise helped our children's self-esteem to grow, confidence in articulating different issues that affect their lives as children.

Linking CLAs to the Federation: CRO Mbale and Lira where federations were formed, the federation members were invited to assess different CLAs and identify those that met the criteria to join the federation. The assessment enabled CLAs to understand their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Thereafter, 11 CLAs selected representatives to the area federation (known as **Umbrella for Development, Mbale and Lira Joint Federations**) for further support.

This federation is an umbrella group composed of CLAs from different areas with a mission to build capacities of CLAs, SHGs and communities to influence change for sustainable development through training and information. Its four main roles are to;

- contribute to sustainability by empowering and supporting CLAs and promoting partnerships
- Lobby and ensure that needs-based services that reach the community are of quality
- Promote Peace, Justice and Security, in the community
- Positively influence people's thinking to achieve social transformation

The federation receives reports from CLAs concerning the needs in the various communities and works towards advocating and lobbying support back to the communities. The newly linked CLAs received training on the federation concept as a way of providing them with information to support their linkage and work with the federation.

CLA wise investments: In 2019, CRO supported 5 of the 11 CLAs in the identification and management of start-up wise investments. They were provided with clear measures on how to select and manage wise investments, and as a result, all these CLAs managed to establish viable businesses to supplement on their income and some of the selected examples include; Hambana CLA in Mbale that stocked spray pumps that they hire to the vegetable growers in the hilly parts of their community, Binyalikhha CLA that obtained plastic chairs which they hire to community members with events and Gumilakho CLAs.

Conducting Community Outreaches: 12 outreaches were carried out in 2019 in the 4 project areas of Mbale; Jinja, Masaka and Lira. 823 (304 males and 519 females) Care givers were reached during the community outreaches. The Caregivers benefited in the areas of psychosocial support that was provided by the different social workers. During the home visits, there is always one on one counseling and mostly on

issues affecting the families. At the same time, we emphasized the importance of supporting the education of children that have been reintegrated and those at home. These outreaches also help the organization to come up with the better understanding of the issues affecting our people.

CCPC Quarterly meetings: CRO facilitated Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs) to hold their quarterly meetings. These meetings were a platform for CCPC members to reflect on the activities conducted, the challenges faced, the lessons learnt and recommendations for improvement. This enabled them to evaluate their performance against planned activities and guided them as they resolved on action plans to improve their work.

Holding meetings for caregivers of the children: Through out CRO, we had 12 since each branch holds one quarterly. The beauty of these meetings which normally happen towards the opening of the schools, is to bring the parents on board interms of their contribution towards the well being of the child in the schools they are going to attend. We encourage them to always vist children while in school and find out if there are any challeges or positive lessons we can take from the school in support these children better. We also inform them to do cost sharing when it comes to scholastic materials and this is also aimed at cementing the relationship between the child and the caregivers.

Children's Gala and Christmas party: CRO hosted street children for their end of year Christmas parties and the music galas in all the four CRO branches. Among the invited were also the members of the communities, care givers from the different communities that we operate in, opinion leaders and the guests of honor both political and the civil servants to grass the occasion. Children entertained the guests through, Music, Dance and Drama. The theme of the gala was entitled; "*Humanitarian Action in Africa: Children's Rights First*".

As CRO, this was an opportunity for us to sensitize the parents, and the invited guests that included the police officers who on many occasions have turned a deaf ear towards the perpetrators who have abused the rights of children. The invited guests had been requested to help in explaining the different roles of the duty bearers and rights holders. Parents were encouraged to love their children and ensure that those push factors in families are handled with a lot of care. As well, children were encouraged to be humble and obedient to their caregivers.

Since this is a one-time event every year, the attendance was very high and as a result, 1,545 children (831 boys, 714 girls), 201 caregivers/community members (122 male, 79 Female), and 8 invited guests who included the political wing of civil government (5 male, 3 female) attended.

CHALLENGES IN 2019

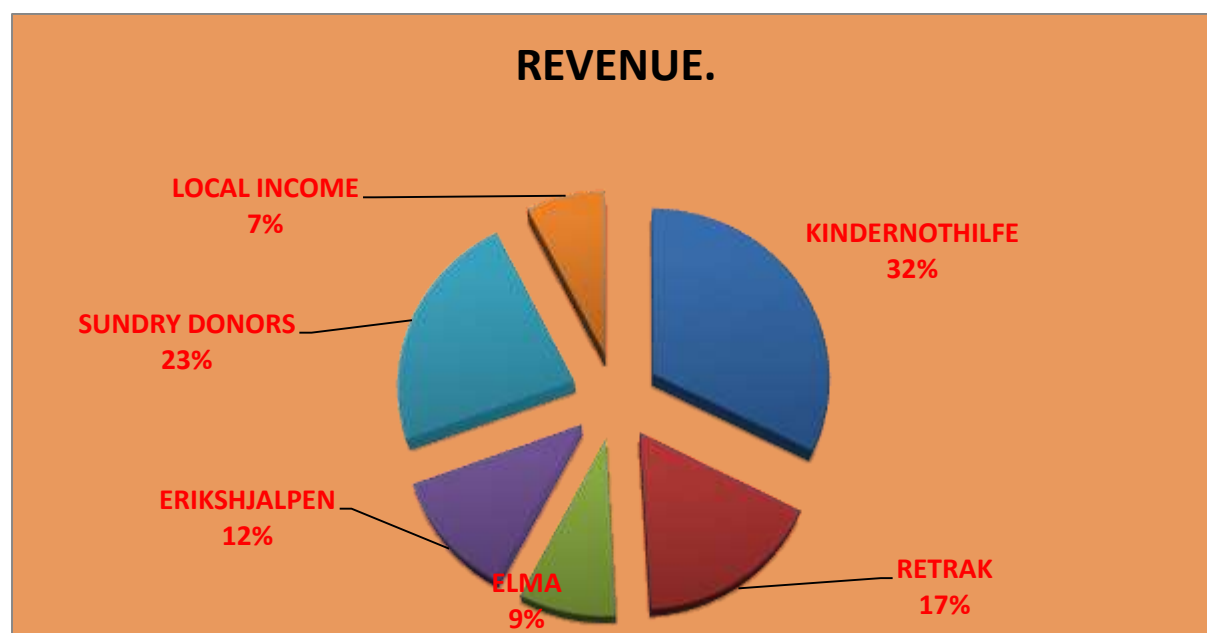
1. There was limited funding as some Projects phase-out. This especially affected the Reintegration program of children, Rehabilitation, Education of a big number of children in formal schools and the administrative costs became a big challenge.
2. High number of children came to the streets of Mbale as a result of floods and landslides in Eastern Uganda.

3. Some home environments are not safe for the children and yet there are limited homes where children can be reintegrated hence some children bounce back to the streets.
4. Loss of the first National Coordinator for the organization was a big hurdle for every member both internally and externally. She had served the organization for 26 years and we still had a lot to learn from her leadership.

LESSONS LEARNT

1. Concentrate on strengthening the existing Peoples Institutions with knowledge and skills in advocacy and lobby in order to have functional strong PIs that will enhance community development through ensuring access of services and material needs to the community.
2. Team work amongst the implementing staff enhances timely implementation of activities and this explains why the project is on course.
3. The Children's Groups are a powerful structure that enables the children to participate in issues pertaining to their welfare thus, ensuring that child protection is available in the communities.
4. The aspect of Role Transfer under the SHG Approach is a vital strategy in empowering the poorest of the poor. This enables the beneficiaries to own the Programmes in place, attain different knowledge and skills which leads to sustainability.

CRO FUNDING IN 2019



THANK YOU.