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Annual Report



***Ebenezer, “Thus far the Lord
has helped us”***

1Samuel 7:12



**Child Restoration Outreach
(CRO Uganda)**



Paul Nabitiri

Country Director

Thank you for being part of the vision, mission and goal of CRO to reach out, rescue, rehabilitate, reintegrate and empower former street children to become responsible and fruitful citizens in

our nation.

2022 was unique as marked 30 years since the founding of CRO Uganda in 1992 in Mbale by Ms Ingrid Wilts, Bishop Simon Peter Emiau and Pastor Benjamin Otim (RIP). We celebrated God's faithfulness in providing for, blessing and sustaining the interventions of CRO under the theme in 1Samuel 7:2 "Ebenezer" meaning "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us".

The year 2022 saw CRO recovering from the adverse effects of the Covid 19 pandemic and the suspension of child related activities of Mbale branch in 2021. Volunteer staff were approved as full time staff- raising the number of fulltime staff from 14 in 2021 to 30 in 2022. We thank this team for job well done in 2022.

I thank the Board of Directors of CRO chaired by Bishop Simon Peter Emiau, that has steered this precious institution through the storms and kept it afloat.

Great thanks to our funding partners; **Eriks Development Partners, Elma Philanthropies, Suubi ly'abana Germany, CROSO, CRO Foundation Netherlands** and individual fundraisers like **Uta (Berlin, Germany), Miriam, Wout & Decknonic** among others for the timely financial support.

Our national & local partners in Mbale, Lira, Jinja and Masaka, we are proud of you and appreciate your support. Our local and central government and non-governmental partners who through their community development departments as well as child welfare programmes have provided technical guidance and supervision to CRO branches to ensure safe service delivery.

This year, we were able to provide services to a

total of **947 children (525 boys and 422 girls)** in addition to several caregivers as indicated in this report.

We applaud our children, some of whom are now CRO alumni for taking advantage of available opportunities to come out of oppressive street conditions and climb the ladders of development. Thank you all for not wasting the resources invested in you.

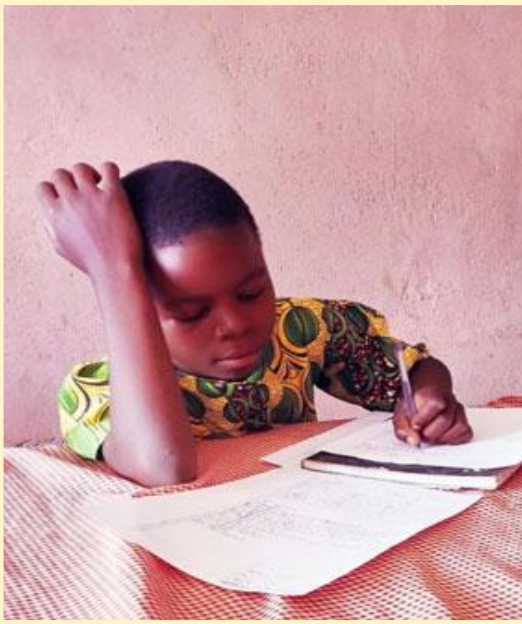
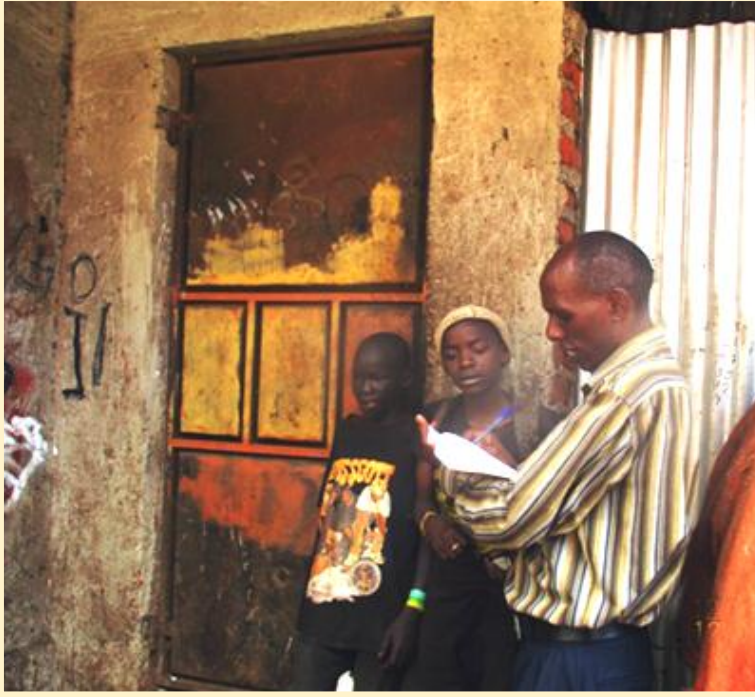
CRO as a learning organization has grown through various experiences and challenges which have enabled it to refine her vision, mission, goals and objectives as well as strategies to be able to continue addressing evolving issues propelling children to the streets.

Despite all the developments and achievements, CRO is still experiencing several challenges which include: reduced external funding, understaffing due to limited funds; increasing number of children on the streets as well as low local stakeholder involvement in addressing the plight of children living in streets situations.

To address these challenges we are; increasing local resources mobilization and stakeholder involvement in the protection and promotion of children rights, strengthening parenting and caregiver programming as well as holding key duty bearers accountable using the Rights Based Approach to development.

We therefore appeal to everyone to join us in this noble cause to save the future generation. We appeal to faith-based institutions, school, business community and government departments to partner with us in this noble cause. Let us work together to get children off the streets into safe nurturing environments. We welcome every technical, financial, moral and material support towards this noble cause. Together we shall manage this social challenge

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2023!





Addressing Growing Issues Pushing Children to the Streets.

Children are precious assets and hope of a nation. Depriving them positive social relationships, lack of basic needs, acute health, and psychological problems impact them negatively.

We thank every heart that's working together with us to get children off the streets - into safe nurturing environments.

Child Restoration Impact

Since 1992, CRO Uganda has been rescuing children from the streets, rehabilitating them, reintegrating them into their families/communities, and empowering them via formal and vocational education to enable them to live transformed, responsible, and productive lives.

For the last 30 years, CRO Uganda has been able to **rescue over 14,200 children from the streets** across its operational area comprising Mbale, Jinja, Lira and Masaka.

Through CRO Uganda's core program areas which include: -Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration, Health and Nutrition, Education and Recreation, Economic empowerment plus Awareness and Advocacy—we continue to rescue children from the streets out violence, abuse and exploitation associated with street life and provide them with an opportunity to live a more meaningful, safe, friendly and enabling communities where they are receiving love, care, protection and services that promote their rights, health and education.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Jan 2022–Dec 2022

366 Children were rescued from the street and enrolled into rehabilitation.

Through the CRO transit center [temporary custody to the children under home tracing while undergoing comprehensive rehabilitation to prepare them for successful reintegration and education]


62 boys were provided with shelter, beddings, food and clothes among others.

CRO clinics provided **314** children and youth with medical care while **532** received food support .

173 Children were successfully reintegrated in their families and communities.



KEVIN - the FASHION DESIGNER



Kevin (16) from Lira dropped out of school after completing PLE in 2019. She was not able to join Senior One in 2020 because of her poor family could not afford the fees and other requirements.

This was worsened by the COVID_19 pandemic which crippled even the small earnings her family could afford - causing skipping meals at home due to scarcity of food.

"I became hopeless at home realizing that my entire dream of becoming a professional teacher had been halted", Kevin explains. "I was then influenced by my peers to join the street and start hawking local bread in Lira city", she adds.

While on the street, Kevin came into contact with CRO social workers who interviewed her and encouraged her to visit the center - to which she obliged. At the drop center, she started receiving counselling and in 2021 was enrolled on the vocational skills training program under tailoring and garment cutting.

Kevin says, "Now I have gained a lot of skill in tailoring and garment cutting and my trainers say that am progressing well. With the skill i have gained, I am able to make various types of fashions of clothes'.

"I am very happy that my life has completely changed from a hopeless child into a skillful person with ability and potential to earn and also help other people in my community. My

advice to fellow children is that they should concentrate on what they are doing if they get such opportunities in order to achieve their goals. Thank you CRO for the continued support to the hopeless like me and our families.", she adds.

Like Kevin, many children who have turned to streets because of hopelessness have been rescued, rehabilitated and empowered by CRO-Uganda. These have been able to discover their identity and potential hence becoming productive and responsible citizens in their communities and Uganda at large.

We invite you to join us in helping change lives.

EDUCATION IMPACT

Jan 2022–Dec 2022

Children's Right to education is an essential component of their development that can eventually lead to a better future.

Through Formal education **241** children were supported in Primary school with Uniform, stationery and school fees, **59** in secondary schools while **10** in Tertiary institutions.

CRO supported **125** youths (55 boys, 70 girls) to acquire practical skills through vocational training in various trades which included tailoring, Mechanics, Hair Dressing, Motor Cycle Repairs, Motor vehicle Repairs, Welding and Metal fabrics, motor cycle repair and these youths successfully completed their courses and graduated by December 2022.



the making of a Pharmacist.

My name is Fred. I am the second born of five children (four boys and one girl). We have grown up with our paternal grandmother in Namatala slum, Mbale City.

Darkness begins...

After the demise of my father in 2008, me and three of my siblings moved to Mbale town with our grandmother in search for survival since in village there was nothing we could depend on for earning.

Unfortunately, grandma did not have a stable source of income and as a result, me and my siblings would go to the streets to pick left-overs, fresh food stuffs and charcoal dust from the bins and pits around markets, while grandma would go to industrial area to pick thrown maize seeds and other food residues to supplement our efforts to feed the family.

Street life was survival for the fittest and since there were many such kids, many times we would engage in risky behavior in order to obtain the basic needs.

“Ending up on the street equals hopelessness but CRO strives to light up the dark path by restoring hope for the future.”

Bravo CRO & all our sponsors.

Darkness fades ...

Through the CRO day street surveys, I was encountered by CRO Social Worker, Teacher Janet, interviewed and invited to the drop center in Mbale where I was enrolled into the CRO rehabilitation program.

After rehabilitation, in 2009 CRO enrolled me into Nabuyonga P/S in P.3 until completion in 2013 passing highly in Division 1 with 7 aggregates in 4 subjects.

Under CRO support, I joined Maluku SS where I was on top of the class with first grade in U.C.E exams.

In 2018, I joined Mbale S.S.S, the school I had yearned to join and in 2019 sat for UACE and scored 16 points in BCM.

I was able to join Makerere University in 2021 offering a Bachelor's Degree in Pharmacy.



I cannot thank CRO enough for enlightening my dark path thus creating a ray of hope.

Just like many other successfully transformed children, Fred is a humble, hardworking and well behaved youth and is often invited by social workers to share and encourage other students about education and discipline—which he does willingly. We are proud of you.

FOOD - one of the most pressing necessities for children living in street situations.

In fact, lack of food is one of the causes of children living on the streets.

CRO provides a balanced meal for the children at the centres and also ensures that those in school can have meals. included meat, rice, beans, green vegetables, and ground nuts in addition to maize meal.

In 2022, CRO made sure that 532 children (335 boys and 197 girls) received meals at various CRO centres in Mbale, Lira, Jinja and Masaka.



The provision of these meals assisted in boosting the children's health and immunity as well as keep them in schools. Also, most of the children are drawn to the centre by this, where they spend the majority of the day instead of taking part in dangerous activities on the streets.



Raising awareness of the welfare of children in street situations

Increasing awareness and involvement of all stakeholders in addressing those socio- cultural and economic issues affecting the welfare of children in street situations is one of our goals.

We want them to be involved in generating practical alternatives that can help increase chances for survival, safety, development and participation in decisions that affect the wellbeing of these children.

Issues like violence against children in schools, homes and general community have to be identified and addressed with responsible persons.

The initiative made use of powerful advocacy and lobbying techniques to support the power of those who have rights to fully and equally enjoy those rights and to hold leaders responsible for their promises and deeds.



A team of Members of Parliament visiting CRO. The children requested the MPs to engage those who violate/ abuse their rights, reminding them that they have to be protected and cared for. They also raised some of the issues that led to their street situation, like poverty, child abuse, and neglect, among other things.

Children had the opportunity to present their concerns to the duty bearers during the symposium in order to assist their advocacy, inclusion in planning, and protection of their rights. This symposium was organized by Busitema University.



Celebrating 30 years of service, Ebenezer!



On the 16th of December, 2022, CRO Uganda celebrated 30 years of serving children in street connected situations as well as the communities from where they're resettled. This was under the theme found in 1Samuel 7:2; "**Ebenezer**" meaning "**Hitherto hath the Lord helped us**".

Our thanks to the Almighty God for blessing and faithfully sustaining CRO by supplying the physical, spiritual, material and financial needs according to his riches in glory through Jesus Christ over a 30-year period and we request Him for extra grace to go forward.

Since 1992, CRO has impacted over 14,200 Children & Youths plus a large number of care takers in beneficiary communities.

Over the years we have worked with different partners who include Kindernothilfe (KNH), Stromme Foundation, Hope for Justice, Eriks Development Partners, Elma Philanthropies, Suubi y'abana Germany, CROSO and CRO Foundation Netherlands among others.

Additionally, we thank all individual donor and fundraisers like Uta (Berlin, Germany), Miriam, Wout Decknonic among others plus the many volunteers for your generous support.

Our national & local partners, Board members & Staff in Mbale, Lira, Jinja & Masaka, we are proud of you and we appreciate your self-sacrificing support towards Child Restoration Outreach -Uganda.

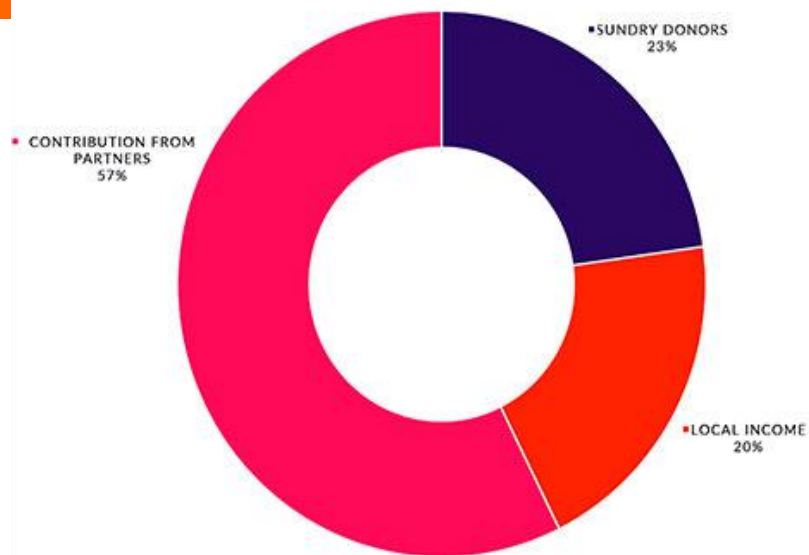


Fiscal Year 2022

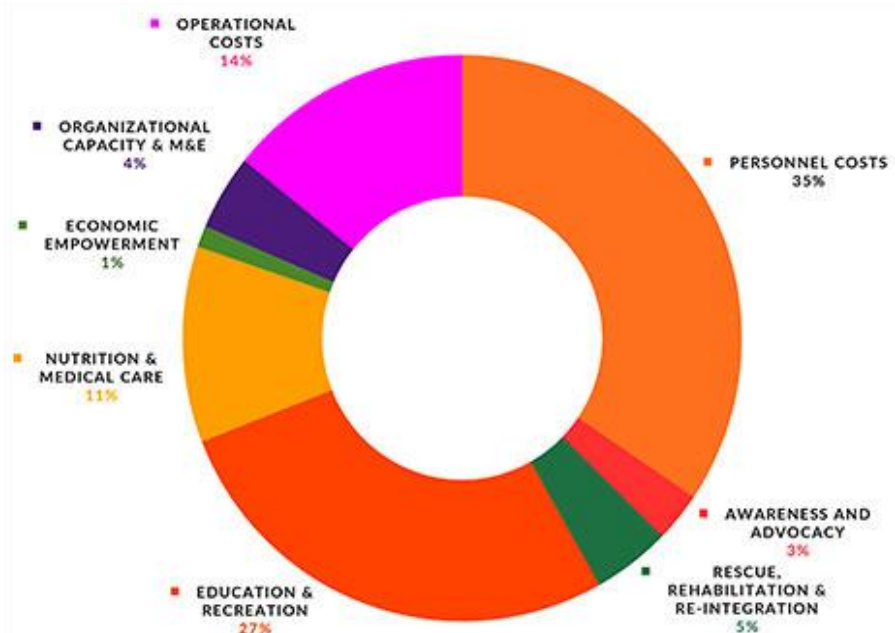
January, 2022– December, 2022

With the limited funding vs. increased number of children on the street, at CRO we strive to ensure that money contributed through grants, donations and local income goes to the work of helping in holistic transformation of children in street-connected situations and their care takers. Some of it goes directly to the programs at core of our mission, while some goes to make that work possible through fundraising, advocacy and outreach.

REVENUE



OPERATING EXPENSES



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Simon Peter Emiau - *Chairperson*
Mr, Osupelum Justin - *Secretary*
Pastor Sam Mukabi - *Member*
Mr. Kidulu James - *Member*
Ms. Ingrid Wilts - *Member*
Mrs. Naomi Watiti - *Member*

NATIONAL OFFICE

Mr. Nabitiri Paul - *Country Director*
Mr. Ssentamu Moses - *MCE Officer*
Nangede Norah Harriet - *Finance Manager*
Mutuwa Betty - *Programme Accountant*
Yasin Habibi - *Security Guard | Cleaner*

CRO MBALE

Ms Kyolaba Barbra - *Branch Manager*
Mr. Koba George - *Social Worker*
Ms Jackie Wabule - *Social Worker*
Mr. Enebu Fabian - *Day guard*
Mr. Shire Deo - *Sports Facility Guard*
Titus Sokolo - *Farm Guard*
Namutosi Gorja - *Cook | Warden*

CRO JINJA

Mr. Noah Namwano - *Branch Manager*
Mr. Simon Peter Byarugaba - *Social Worker*
Mrs. Busingye Phoebe - *Admin Assistant*
Ms. Magoba Jackline - *Social worker*
Mr. Lwanga Joel - *Volunteer Kitchen*
Mwebe David - *Volunteer*

CRO MASAKA

Nkolenta Adah Ojur - *Branch Manager*
Atwiine Pamera - *Social Worker*
Mukasiine Grace - *Social Worker*
Othieno Steven - *Cook*
Kakande Martin - *Day Guard*

CRO LIRA

Olwa James - *Branch Manager*
Alobo - *Volunteer Nurse*
Amai Tonny - *Social Worker*
Ocen Walter - *Social Worker*
Ogwang Ivan Solex - *Security Guard*
Onyanga Patrick - *Security Guard*
Akello Joan - *Volunteer cook*

Kabwangasi Square, Mbale city

P. O. Box 34 Mbale, Uganda

Tel:/Fax +256 454 435 340 | Mob: +256776627311

info@croug.org | crouganda2020@gmail.com

www.croug.org

Reg. No. INDR66739113



CRO Uganda