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KITARA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS' NETWORK 202020 ANNUAL REPORT

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ACRONYMS

ACE - Accelerated HIV Epidemic Control in Fort Portal Region
AGM - Annual General Meeting
BAPENECO -Bunyoro Albertine Petroleum Network on Environmental Conservation
BOD - Board of directors
CFM-Collaborative Forest Man <mark>agemen</mark> t
CFR-Central Forest Reserve
CRS - Catholic Relief Services
CSBAG - Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group
CSCO - Civil Society Coalition <mark>on Oil an</mark> d Gas
CSO - Civil Society Organizations
IDI - Infectious Diseases Institute
KCSON - Kitara Civil Society O <mark>rganizat</mark> ions Network
KPs - Key Populations
KTB - Kenyan Top Bar
M&E - Monitoring and Evaluation
MASEN - Mid Albertine Sustainable Energy Network
MO - Member Organizations
NFA - National Forestry Authority
PSWs - Para Social Workers
RHU - Reproductive Health Uganda
SOCY - Sustainable Outcomes for Children and Youth
UNNGOF - Uganda National NGO Forum
USAID - United States Agency for International Development
VHTs - Village Health Teams
VSLAs - Village Saving and Loans Association
WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature
CSON Annual Report 2020 2

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

It is my pleasure to share with you our 2020 Annual Report. Amidst the un precedented challenges associated with the outbreak of the noble coronavirus, KCSON registered successes even though not the level that had been anticipated under the "old normal". The year 2020 saw KCSON achieve in form of; enhanced internal governance; increased advocacy for effective service delivery especially in the primary sectors of Education, health, environment and Agriculture (production); improved linkages and coordination for effective service provision especially to the vulnerable categories of people; and supporting the COVID 19 response. The end of 2020 coincided with the successful closure of 3 of its projects i.e. the Sustainable Outcomes for Children and Youth (SOCY) that was supported by USAID through CRS (since 2016), Clean energy- Increasing access to sustainable and renewable energy alternatives in the Albertine Graben supported by WWF-UCO (since 2017), and Strengthening Community to Facility HIV Services-SCFH under the Bunyoro HIV/AIDS project supported by CDC through IDI (since 2017). We do celebrate this as an important milestone for KCSON in addition to leaving behind opportunities and capacity upon which future interventions would build.

The backing which we received from all of you in your various and dignified capacities is greatly appreciated. KCSON in 2020 collaborated with over 80 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), 80 both local, national and international, PBC members, VHTs, PSWs not forgetting the local governments of Kibaale, Hoima, Kyenjojo, Ibanda, Kikuube, Kakumiro, Masindi, and Buliisa where we had direct implementation of activities.

Thanks to the confidence in KCSON from our development partners that has ensured service delivery. The availability of resources despite the Covid-10 lockdown has enabled us reach over 30,000 individuals with different services. The participatory budget approach supported by CSBAG has been very instrumental in ensuring that citizens especially the poor women are at the center of planning and budgeting process, demand accountability and make government more responsive, efficient and effective. We pledge our continued commitment in advocating for budget processes that benefit all, especially the marginalized groups.

Sincerely,

Paul Mulindwa Executive Director

BOARD DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:



On behalf of the KCSON Board permit us to present the 2020 Annual Report for Kitara Civil Society Organisations' Network (KCSON) with distinct gratitude to our development partners, Board, member organisations (MOs) and Employees.

The year 2020 was quite a challenging one due to outbreak of Covid-19 that forced almost all countries to shut down. However, it was on the other hand a significant time of growth, learning and progress for KCSON. Substantial progress was registered in expansion of outreach to vulnerable communities and children, a number of projects (03 in number) successfully completed and closed with outstanding performance, new projects initiated and approved and overall new funding and resources mobilized. We as board continued our oversight functions over the secretariat, and strengthened our systems and human resources particularly in the area of audit and risk management, financial management and monitoring and supervision. We expanded our networks and built strategic partnerships with leading organizations and institutions both at local and National levels. As a result, our service coverage expanded to reach over 29,000 people throughout our area of operation. Quite a number of our beneficiaries received child protection interventions and with psychosocial support services. These are significant achievements given the difficult prevailing socio-economic circumstances both locally and globally. Reduced economic activity following lockdown of the economy resulted into increased economic hardships (food shortages, difficult to access medical care, increased cases of DV and GBV). As usual children and women are

the most vulnerable and therefore the hardest hit. The result of these adversities is increased demand for our services, necessitating more resources and preparedness to deal with the challenge. We, however, remain optimistic that together with our local and international partners we will ably scale up and sustainably implement our programs. Our plans in the medium-term future focus on strengthening our capacity and diversifying the volume and depth of interventions, increasing the scope and coverage of our programs, and amplifying our influence in national policy, program development and management. I thank in a special way all our donors and partners for their unwavering support. I salute my colleagues on the board for their invaluable strategic oversight and thank the dynamic, KCSON management and staff for their commitment to delivering on our vision " A vibrant and coordinated civil society where development is attained in a just and peaceful society"

sending how it

Swizen SK. Wamala Chairperson Board

Snapshot of 2020 in Numbers



• Supported continuous learning during COVID-19 lockdown. A total of 9276 children (7486 in primary and 1790 in secondary) supported with study/learning materials during lockdown

• Enhanced advocacy for service delivery through organizing various engagements to discuss service delivery issues. Through this, the District budget of Kakumiro increased from UGX 24.44billion (FY 2019/20) to UGX 30.84 billion (FY 2020/21). In the same budget there was an increase in wage bill from UGX 9,532,621,363(FY 2019/20) to UGX 9,901,081,025 (FY 2020/21) which saw the District advertise and fill more positions as a way of improving service delivery.

• Over 50 CSOs' capacity built in areas such as fundraising, advocacy and lobbying, report writing, finance management, M&E, NGO regulatory compliance among others.

• Improved networking, linkages for primary service provision targeting the vulnerable categories of people. Under this, 380 KPs enabled to access HIV prevention services, 116 Health Education sessions at health facilities conducted on HIV Clinic days, 390 Community client led differentiated service delivery models (CCLADS) strengthened, 1316 HIV positive clients supported with community ART refills during COVID-19 lockdown, 3520 referrals (community to facility and facility to community) completed

• Enhanced capacity of CSOs in natural resource protection and governance in the region. Under this 3 heifers acquired by Namirembe Women's group through revolving fund, 38,500 tree seedlings distributed to communities adjacent to Bugoma CFR, 200 KTB bee hives distributed to Kidoma CFM group in Kikuube District, 4 CBOs with 237 members capacity enhanced



Approaches Used

In our endeavors to meet our goals and objectives, we applied the following strategies:

Relationship Building and Nurturing: Besides working with communities, we invested in building relationships amongst like-minded CSOs for a stronger collective voice. We worked with a number of CSOs to open up spaces in government for effective engagements and nurtured these relationships in a progressive and objective manner. KCSON also organized coordination meetings (both physical and virtual) for CSOs in the region to reflect on CSO compliance and other sector issues. The virtual meetings during COVID-19 lockdown enabled CSOs to continue operating and offering services. This played a major role in promoting credibility and reliability amongst our peers and stakeholders.

Capacity Enhancement:

We participated in preparing CSOs to effectively play its role of influencing policies and budgets. We believe that if CSOs have adequate capacity to analyse and debate policies and the budget independently, they can improve service delivery.

Government and private sector engagement:

KCSON worked with local governments, central government, MDAs and private sector to link CSO mandate. These included Districts and Sub County local governments, Petroleum Authority of Uganda, Oil companies, microfinance support centre among others to advocate for increased resource benefits to communities and better CSO working environment.

Working with the media:

KCSON works with media as a fundamental tool in enhancing community awareness about KCSON programs and projects. The organization throughout 2020 used local radio stations to pass on most of its information through live broadcast (radio programs) D.J mentions and announcements especially during lockdown. A number of radio programs were aired to create awareness about covid-19 and how to prevent against it. Programs on service delivery were also aired.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

a) Enhanced governance of KCSON in the year 2020, KCSON organized and held the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the year 2019. The AGM that had been planned for March was instead held in August due to outbreak of COVID-19 that made it difficult to organize meeting since the government had banned them. In this AGM held in August 2020, Annual reports and plans for 2020 were shared & approved. The board continued its policy and supervisory mandate over secretariat with the mandatory Board quarterly meetings all held. The two Sub Committees of the board i.e. Human Resource and Finance committees continued to function.

Relatedly, the Secretariat remained functional with both the head office (Kagadi) and the four field offices (Kibaale, Ibanda, Kyenjojo and Hoima) open to the public and offering different services to members, other civil society groups, the local government and the general public.



Members of the Board in a meeting at Hoima Resort Hotel

KCSON member contributing during AGM

b) Improved resource mobilization. KCSON Secretariat shared a number of funding opportunities with the member organizations both through email, at office, and by visiting some MOs at their respective office locations. Linking of member organizations to potential partners was also done by providing KCSON members contacts to funding agencies as well as through the website. Also, One-to-one support to members during proposal developments targeting different funding agencies, accessing NGO bureau requirements, among other support was done and at least 17 Organizations were able to access such support from KCSON Secretariat. In the same year, we saw some of our MOs access funding. However, many MOs continue facing challenges of fundraising due to lack of systems and track record.

c) Enhanced advocacy for effective service delivery to communities

KCSON contributed towards improving service delivery in our areas of operation through the following ways;

(i) Through community interface with duty bearers

KCSON in the year 2020 continued with its efforts to bring together communities and duty bearers to dialogue on issues of services delivery. With support from CSBAG organized various community interface meetings in Kakumiro District where citizens interfaced with duty bearers at different levels on service delivery. To the duty bearers, this was a plus because they were able to get feedback from communities on issues affecting service delivery and to the communities, they were able to get clarity on why some of the services were not being delivered as expected.

Due to continued engagements with the District and ministry of finance at National level by CSBAG, we saw an increment in the District budget of Kakumiro from UGX 24.44billion (FY 2019/20) to UGX 30.84 billion (FY 2020/21). In the same budget there was an increase in wage bill from UGX 9,532,621,363(FY 2019/20) to UGX 9,901,081,025 (FY 2020/21) which saw the District advertise and fill some of the positions as a way of improving service delivery.



Community interface meetings to discuss issues affecting service delivery in Kakumiro District

(ii) Through media engagement. In the year 2020, KCSON increased its engagement with the media, both print and electronic in dissemination of different programmes and messages to the general public. These programmes were presented by different stakeholders such as CSOs, religious leaders, politicians, local government among others. These programmes included; CSO coordination & resilience in advocacy work, conflict management & mitigation, Covid-19 management, GBV & VAC prevention, Transparency &accountability by duty bearers, advocacy for better service delivery, role of CSOs in sustainable development among others.

(iii) Through ICT. KCSON in the year 2020 identified and supported a community based monitoring model with 12 monitors from Kagadi and Kikuube Districts. These were trained to use mobile phones to report any form of illegalities on protected areas such as forest reserves (Bugoma) and wetlands. The CBM platform was put on CUG where they send text messafes and voice calls to duty bearers like NFA for any encroachment practice identified.

Civil Society Resilience and health enhanced

KCSON in the year 2020 in partnership with Uganda National NGO Forum, facilitated interaction, consultations and constructive engagements with government on enhanced service delivery and also coordinated CSOs to comply to the NGO regulatory frame work

As a result;

- Member organizations were supported to comply to NGO regulatory frame work and are being mobilized on the same
- II) Enhanced KCSON and Member CSO visibility in the region. Through dialogues, anti-corruption activities, documentation of advocacy papers, reports, participating in wide events, webinar whose funding was from UNGOF
- III) Facilitated 8 CSO coordination meetings for CSOs through zoom during Covid 19 lock down

2.Empowerment of vulnerable groups and peace building

Under this thematic area, KCSON contributed towards reduction of the above vulnerabilities through coordination, research and partnership programmes implemented through member CSOs with well-developed linkages among all stakeholders to empower the vulnerable groups and contribute to peace building. The vulnerabilities identified at households were referred and followed up for services.

Improved referral systems and linkages

In 2020 KCSON with funding from USAID through CRS (SOCY), IDI and Baylor Uganda continued with interventions aimed at improving referral systems and linkages in order to provide HIV, TB prevention and treatment services in the 6 Districts of Kibaale, Hoima, Kakumiro, Kikuube, Kyenjojo and Ibanda. Primary focus was on accelerating comprehensive HIV/AIDS Service Delivery through Health Systems capacity Building in facilities to address challenges in accessing HIV care comprehensive services for improved health and social wellbeing. The strategy was to Identify and link more cases of HIV and TB into care, to enhance retention, adherence and place patients firmly into care and to achieve viral suppression of all clients in care. Our interventions enabled most facilities achieve higher retention rates (95%) through updating service providers Inventories in the Districts of operation, conducting viral load monitoring of all HIV positive clients under our projects, conducting follow-up home visits to Non-suppressing clients for IAC, handling and referring cases of GBV in households, development and monitoring of household improvement plans and general case management.

In total, 29,415(17,088 females and 12,327 males) across the 6 Districts were served of which 20,308 were children as major beneficiaries.

Other notable achievements were;

- 380 KPs accessed HIV services at points of Karuguuza and Igayaza
- Followed-up clients who lost from care and supported them with adherence services thus contributing to client retention
- Initiated and followed up 2699 referrals for HIV to ensure client receipt of service
- 2988 referral for clients from the community to the health facility for services of GBV, TB and IPT completed, 2988 referral for clients from the community to the health facility for services of GBV, TB and IPT completed,
- 116 Health Education sessions at health facilities conducted on HIV Clinic days
- 390 Community client led differentiated service delivery models (CCLADS) formation and strengthened
- Increased access to sustainable and renewable energy alternatives in the Albertine Graben

KCSON in the year 2020 continued with implementation of the project titled 'Increasing access to sustainable and renewable energy alternatives in the Albertine Graben to conserve high value forest ecosystems to benefit people and nature in Uganda". aimed at increasing the use of clean energy (solar and improved cook stoves) in order to reduce pressure on forests. The project registered quite significant achievements such as increased distribution of RETs, supported development of renewable energy strategies for Kibaale, Masindi and Kagadi Districts which were later passed by the respective District councils and are now operational. The strategies shall promote investment in clean energy resources, regulate distribution of technologies, guide the adoption and use of renewable energy by local communities and policy makers for appropriate decision making. The 998 improved cook stoves and 172 home solar systems distributed in 2020 through VSLAs have enabled local communities purchase these technologies have increased access.

e) CSOs supported to promote community and nature-based livelihood enterprises

The partnership between KCSON and WWF to undertake forestry and biodiversity interventions was seen growing in 2020 through technical and financial support. KCSON as a hub for CSOs in the Albertine region focused on promoting conservation of high value forest ecosystems to benefit people and nature in 2 districts of Kikuube and Kagadi. The partnership largely enhanced capacity of KCSON and that of members in areas of resource mobilization and strategic governance, land scape restoration and live hood improvement for communities adjacent to Bugoma CFR.

Interventions were further geared towards restoration of Bugoma Central Forest reserve as one of those key natural resources in the Albertine. 5CBOs of; a) Namirembe Women's Group in Rugashari Sub-County, Kagadi District b) Kyeterekera Tweyombeke Women's Group in Kyaterekera Sub county, Kagadi District c) Rugashari Youth Group in Rugashari Sub county, Kagadi District d) Mpanga Conservation Development Association in Kabwoya Sub County, and e) Kidoma conservation development association in Kiziranfumbi Sub County Kikuube District received direct support. Through this partnership, direct benefits were; capacity of land scape CSOs strengthened in areas of resource mobilization, development of KCSON M&E system, land scape restoration and live hood improvement for communities adjacent to Bugoma CFR. KCSON also Supported Namirembe Women's Group to pilot revolving fund with seed capital of UGX 5 million.

Notable achievements were;

- One CBO/ group of Kidoma Conservation.... was added onto existing 4 groups and supported to manage an apiary of 200 bee hives on top of planting 15 ha of indigenous tree seedlings
- Income of Rugashari Youth Group expanded through selling of over 300kgs of packed and branded honey.
- Namirembe Women's group supported to acquire 3 heifers through revolving fund
- Reduced encroachment practices through community- based reporting using ICT and direct linkage with NFA
- MCODA expanded their tree plantation to currently 39 ha cumulatively
- KCSON has a running website and currently establishing an effective M&E system
- 4 schools were also supported to champion Education for Sustainable Development activities.
- 227 community members received direct Sexual and Reproductive Health Services



Left: One of the beneficiaries of revolving fund with the heifer she acquired. On the right A member of Rugashari youth showcasing honey during International youth day at Hotel Serena

3.Capacity Building and Knowledge Management

Under this thematic area, KCSON believes in capacity building process that encourages participation by all those involved. KCSON further believes that knowledge is the foundation of capacity and that efficient information management greatly increases the probability of making timely, effective decisions.

Enhanced skilling of KCSON members, staff and general public. In the year 2020, KCSON organized quite a number of capacity building interventions that aimed at equipping members with skills such as fundraising skills, advocacy and lobbying skills, report writing skills, finance management skills, among others. Some of these were directly organized by KCSON while others

were organized by other Organisations and KCSON's role was to link and support members access such capacity enhancement opportunities. Key capacity focus areas included; effective advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, financial management, resources mobilization, "new normal/ COVID coping mechanisms for CSOs, among others

SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS DURING COVID-19

After outbreak of Covid-19 many households and individuals' vulnerability increased more especially after the government announced total lock down of the economy. It became difficult for these households/individuals to access food, medical care (especially those on ART), and other services in addition to increased cases of domestic violence and gender-based violence.

As a result, KCSON supported communities through the following;

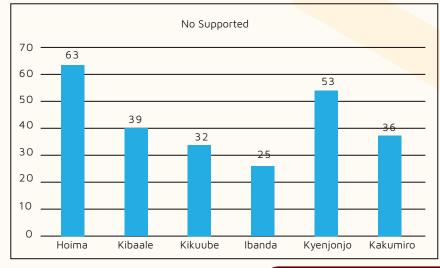
a) Linkages and referrals for the vulnerable groups.

In order to improve linkages and referrals for the vulnerable groups, KCSON engaged in;

Delivery of ART Refills

During lockdown, accessing medicine/ART services by HIV positives was quite challenging given the fact that transport was under lockdown. Beneficiaries far away from the health facilities were finding it quite difficult to reach facilities and access ART services. KCSON as a result, supported a number of HIV Positive clients with refills especially those from distant places. KCSON staff in collaboration with Health facilities assisted clients by directly delivering their refills home to ensure good adherence for them not to backslide to non-suppression. A total of 1316 clients benefited from this across the 6 Districts of Hoima, Kikuube, Kibaale, Kakumiro, Ibanda and Kyenjojo.







Left: Linkages coordinator-Ibanda interracting with a non-suppressing child during the cash transfer exercise while on the right: Technical staff from CRS Mr Kato Godfrey doing the verification of the beneficiary going to benefit from the non suppression cash transfer in Nyamarunda Sub county-Kibaale District.

Support to continuous Education/Learning during COVID-19

KCSON in the year 2020, distributed education learning materials to school going children/ beneficiaries across all the 6 Districts in the Mid Albertine to help them continue learning amidst the lockdown that affected all learning institutions in the country leading to their closure. The materials distributed were those recommended by the National Curriculum Development Centre(NCDC) under the Ministry of Education and Sports.

District	Beneficiaries per Class												
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	S1	S2	S 3	S4	S5	S6
Ibanda	030	054	058	046	052	049	034	037	010	012	03	02	01
Hoima	034	176	332	560	586	533	501	386	159	162	148	109	022
Kakumiro	071	097	116	120	077	046	040	017	015	02	01	01	00
Kibaale	265	360	382	339	242	198	110	032	048	020	07	00	00
Kikuube	00	016	121	227	336	294	253	195	150	055	050	033	021
Kyenjojo	025	068	116	128	150	125	119	025	030	020	017	00	00
Total	425	771	1125	1420	1443	1245	1057	692	412	271	226	145	44

A total of 7486 primary children benefited from the learning materials across the 6 Districts of Kyenjojo(731), Hoima(2722), Kikuube(1247), Ibanda(323),Kakumiro(567) and Kibaale(1896). For secondary, a total of 1790 children were able to benefit from the materials distributed across the 6 Districts-Kyenjojo(092), Hoima(986), Ibanda(065), Kakumiro(036), Kibaale(107) and Kikuube(504)



KCSON staff assisting children to read the learning materials distributed.

Emergency Food Support to COVID 19 Affected Households

A total of 4 tonnes of posho and 4 tonnes of beans were procured and distributed to households affected by COVID-19 across the 6 Districts of Kibaale, Kakumiro, Hoima, Kikuube, Kyenjojo and Ibanda. During distribution priority was given to households with non-suppressing children and adults. Each beneficiary household received 5 kgs of beans and 5 kgs of posho.

Emergency support to victims of flooding of L.Albert

Relatedly, KCSON with support from UNNGOF supported 280 destitute households in two sub counties of Ndaiga (Kagadi District) and Kyangwali (Kikuube District) at border sub counties These included 600 Kilograms of beans and 1400kgs of posho. as an emergency support to the citizens whose houses and other properties had been submerged after the flooding of Lake Albert in 2020



Other support for Covid-19 management

- A total of 9 talk shows were aired out to sensitize community on effects of the pandemic, peaceful coexistence during the period of Covid, avoiding or reporting domestic violence cases, vigilance, reporting suspected cases at border sub counties and popularizing presidential directives and ministry of health guidelines.
- Also distributed ministry of health IEC materials with covid-19 messages on spread and prevention. All were done in conjunction with COVID 19 emergency response team, District and Sub county task forces, security agencies, Member organizations and community volunteers of Village Health Teams.
- KCSON was also active member of 5 District task forces; Kibaale, Kagadi, Kakumiro, Hoima and Kakumiro and attended 27 task force meeting where issues affecting other CSOs and communities were brought to the attention of Task Force Committees
- KCSON under tackle corona supported by UNNGOF provided 5 hand washing facilities to public places like markets and police



CHALLENGES FACED IN THE YEAR 2020

- Outbreak of COVID-19 was a serious challenge in the year 2020 as many of the activities were affected. Community meetings became difficult to organize, even the AGM had to be postponed up to August 2020.
- Reduced resource envelope as some projects came to an end such as BHP, Clean Energy and SOCY.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We want to acknowledge the contributions of the people who worked tirelessly on the projects mentioned within. In a special way we want to recognize the following;

- KCSON staff who worked tirelessly on the different projects/programs that brought different results already mentioned.
- Board of Directors for the oversight role are also acknowledged
- KCSON membership for continued complementary role in service delivery and supporting KCSON secretariat both financially and technically.
- The various platforms/networks both at regional and national levels such as UNNGOF, DENIVA, USPP, CSCO, BAPENECO among others that KCSON coordinates with to advance advocacy agenda.
- Local governments of Kagadi, Hoima, Kibaale, Kakumiro, Ibanda, Kyejojo, Masindi, Buliisa and Kikuube) and all the lower local governments in mentioned Districts
- Our development partners/donors-USAID/ CRS, IDI, Baylor Uganda, WWF-UCO, CSBAG, UNNGOF, CUSP-GIZ among others, for the financial and technical support you offered to KCSON.

6.0

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

REVENUE	Notes	2020 UGX	2019 UGX
Donations and Grants		UUA	UUA
Other Income	9.3	1,905,733,418	2,078,423,167
Total Revenue	9.4	35,362,681	64,278,487
		1,941,096,099	2,142,701,654
EXPENDITURE			
Direct Project Expenses Institutional Adminstrative Expenses	9.5 9.6	1,794,679,369 118,437,919	2,038,210,011 86,582,232
Total Expenditure			00,002,202
		1,913,117,288	2,124,792,243
Surplus (Deficit) of the year		27,978,811	17,909,411

The notes on page 10 to 15 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Executive Director

Treasurer

such for here is

Board Chairperson



Our Partners



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development

















Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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