



DWELLING PLACES

JANUARY-JUNE DETAILED PERFORMANCE REPORT

Date	23 rd JULY 2021
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Organization	Dwelling Places
District of implementation	Kampala & Napak
Period covered	January to June 2021

1. Context of the project or program

Describe important changes in the context of the project or program. Also comment on the implications for implementation.

The first half of 2021 has been a very interesting period in every sense, with a number of highs and lows. Some of our major highlights within the period include the following:

- 189 children rescued/ intercepted within this reporting period (Rescued = 119; Intercepted = 70);
- 78 children successfully reintegrated in safe families and communities;
- 205 children and youths received school fees, scholastic materials and psychosocial support to increase their access to education within this reporting period, although access was still disrupted by the national lockdown;
- Over 2,295 community members engaged through positive parenting trainings, community dialogues, community case conferences and radio talk shows on prevention of child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children in Napak district;
- Secured funds and started the construction of the Girls' Dormitory in Buloba;
- Secured funds to fully furnish Lomaratoit Primary School;
- Secured funds to provide COVID 19 relief food packages to over 355 vulnerable families on our support program;
- Strengthened partnerships that resulted in
 - the mass rescue and rehabilitation of 161 street connected children during the national lockdown; and
 - plans to repatriate 42 Karamojong girls trafficked to Nairobi for exploitation.

We have faced a few challenges within the two quarters that have affected our implementation, including the following:

- Delayed release of funds from two funding partners – Terre des Hommes Netherlands – the HO project (TDH HO), as well as Kerk in Actie (KIA) – the Karamoja Children at Risk Project which resulted in a two-months delay in the rescue and rehabilitation of children at the Transitional Rehabilitation Home.
- The second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic: 3 of our very essential staff tested positive, pushing us to test all the staff and children and at the home to ensure they were safe. This led to an additional UGX 6,975,000 expense in COVID-19 testing which was not in the approved budget.
- The national ban on inter-district movement also severely disrupted repatriation plans as children were set to travel to Napak for reintegration on 13th June 2021 and 27th June 2021 respectively. This has resulted in delayed completion of this activity, as well as an extended period in rehabilitation until the ban is lifted, which will subsequently affect our budgets.
- The phased re-opening, and later the re-closure of schools disrupted educational support programs and budgets, as well as engagements with the school-going children and youth.

Overall, we are very grateful to God for His provision, protection and grace upon Dwelling Places! At a time when people are cutting costs, losing jobs and just trying to maintain low-key operations, God has blessed us immeasurably to the extent that we even had to recruit over 10 volunteers to support us to complete planned activities and set targets. God is very faithful.

2. Progress of activity implementation during the quarter

Provide a synthesis of the activities implemented according to the specific indicators under each Strategic objective:

Strategic Objective 1: Provide psychosocial support and holistic care services to 250 street connected children (3-14 years) from Kampala and districts along the Kampala – Napak route through our 4Rs model, interceptions, increased collaborations with key stakeholders and community structures, creative street outreach approaches, community rehabilitation, digital learning and connections and research to equip the children with relevant skills for sustainability and resilience by 2021

Indicator 1.1a: Number of street outreaches conducted in Kampala

22 street outreaches were conducted since January to June 2021 in different parts of Kampala including Kisenyi, Kisenyi bus terminal, Jinja road, Buganda road, clock tower, shoprite, Entebbe road, William street, Kiseka Market, Old Kampala, Wandegeya, Bombo Road, Makerere, Buloba, Natete, Arua Park, new taxi park, Namayiba bus terminal, Kampala road and Namirembe road. The outreaches were aimed at creating rapport with the children on the streets (through provision of first aid, consultations and psychosocial support),

identifying reasons for leaving home and other relevant trends, as well as identifying those to be rescued based on a defined eligibility criterion. Most of these children were in school but as the COVID 19 pandemic had left them redundant, they had resorted to coming to the streets. Some of the identified reasons for coming to the streets included the following:

- Peer influence;
- The need to help their parents to get money to meet the needs in the family.

In June, we partnered with organizations under Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE) to provide rescue, temporary shelter and protection services for the street connected children who had been left on the streets during the lockdown. Sadly, out of 161 boys rescued only 8 were from Karamoja sub-region. 6 of the few rescued Karamojong boys later ran away, leaving behind only 2 boys. Plans are underway to conduct a special rescue outreach for the Karamojong children to ensure they are equally protected during the lockdown.

In some of the outreaches, the team took time to talk to the children about keeping safe during the pandemic, providing psychosocial support and offering referral services to the majority who did not fit within our rescue criteria.



The some of the photos for the outreaches done



Dwelling Places Rescue Team and KCCA Enforcement Officers at KCCA offices strategizing on how to carryout rescue



Newly rescued children having lunch upon arrival, and then bidding KCCA officials off after they had bathed and changed at the Buloba TRH



Social workers interacting with children on the streets.



A cross section of the boys undergoing rehabilitation at Nakivubo Blue Primary School during the lockdown.

Overall, a total of 338 street connected children (252 boys, 86 girls) were interacted with during the street outreaches; 119 children (58 girls, 61 boys) were rescued for rehabilitation, while the others who did not fit within our eligibility criteria were referred to partners for further support.

Indicator 1.1b: Number of street connected children rescued from the streets:

119 children (58 girls, 61 boys) were rescued for rehabilitation, in addition to 12 other children (9 girls, 3 boys) who ran away from the rehabilitation home without completing the full circle of the rehabilitation; and 2 children (1 boy, 1 girl) who were referred to Kampala Baptist Church and Retrak (Hope for Justice) respectively for further care and support, bringing the actual total number of children who have received rescue services within the period to 133 children (68 girls, 65 boys). This number does not include the children who were intercepted while in transit and reintegrated in collaboration with the Napak district CFPU.

Indicator 1.1c: Number of referrals conducted for victims of abuse to other child care institutions for care, protection and service protection per year.

118 children who did not fit our rescue criteria were referred to partners for better care and support; in addition to 4 special needs children who were supported - 2 were referred to Kakiri Life Long Special Needs Education centre, one severely disabled child who received a special chair for children with cerebral palsy and resources for his family's economic empowerment – in partnership with Inclusion Support Uganda; and a fourth boy who has received support to undergo surgery to rectify a condition called Imperforate anus.

Indicator 1.1d: Number of interceptions conducted in partnership with the Napak DCFPU:

A total of 70 children (61 girls, 9 boys) were intercepted within this reporting period from different places including Nabilatuk, Iriiri, Kangole, Abim, Mbale, Nakapiripirit, Soroti and Katakwi, among others as they were heading to different places including Busia, Mbale, Amuria, and Jinja to baby sit, look for work and others did not know what they were going to do as they were going because of peer pressure. A total of 10 suspected traffickers were arrested within this period and produced in Moroto and Kotido courts after being detained in the police cells for a number of days.

According to the DCFPU, some of the children were moving unaccompanied, and with no clear information about where or to whom they were going, while others were moving in large groups of about 6-8, with only 1 or 2 adult caretakers who "didn't seem to be" related to them. These raised suspicions that resulted in their interception and detention in the sub

county police posts to allow for investigations and support. Dwelling Places was then contacted to provide support in transportation, feeding, psychosocial support, and reintegration, among other costs.

During the interactions and counselling sessions, the children revealed that they were heading to Mbale town and other neighboring towns to work in the market places because of the persistent and unbearable hunger at their homes. Some of them had relatives or sisters in Mbale who invited them, and would pay for their transport upon arrival.



L: A photo of the DCFPU and a group of newly intercepted children; R: DP staff engaging with a family during reintegration.

Indicator 1.1e: Number of interceptions conducted in partnership with Kenyan-based and other regional CSOs

In April 2021, Counter Human Trafficking Trust East Africa (CHTEA), a partner based in Nairobi contacted Dwelling Places about a group of Karamojong girls that they had intercepted before reaching their actual destinations of exploitation, and needed help in repatriation, family tracing, reintegration and further support.

As such, we are working with UCRNN, UCAA, and C&D, among others on logistical arrangements for the repatriation of over 90 Karamojong girls who were trafficked to Nairobi for exploitation, with evidence (such as pregnancy and STIs) that some were engaged in Sexual Exploitation. Plans are underway to bring them back to Napak by the end of July, and to help them in sustainable reintegration and offering further support to these including skilling, Income generating activities and enrollment into mainstream education. It is important to note that the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has committed to cover transportation for 42 girls up to Entebbe airport, leaving a balance of 48+ girls still needing transport. Dwelling Places and partners will cover costs of rehabilitation, family tracing, reintegration, economic empowerment/ skilling/ educational support where appropriate and any other follow-on support once the girls reach Napak district. Below is a summary of the latest updates from IOM as well as our Kenyan counterparts

- On mode of transport, IOM had initially planned to airlift the girls. However, we feared that this might create excitement among the local people, and become a

pull factor. This also meant that we needed to find additional resources to transport the girls from the airport up to Napak, yet these funds were not available. As such, IOM was making some internal consultations to opt for the road transport that will aid re-routing to Karamoja from the eastern points of entry.

- As IOM engaged with the Ugandan High Commission in Kenya to obtain travel permits for the girls, it was discovered that the information provided by the girls in the first place was wrong/misleading information (names, locations and contacts) when compared to that at the TIP secretariat. Fresh screening was carried out on 7th July and a fresh list was to be shared on 8th July to enable comprehensive risk assessment on IOM's side, and family tracing and preparations on the side of Dwelling Places and her partners before return.
- Out of over 90 girls rescued, only 35 girls had so far willingly consented to coming back home, and these were now the ones being planned for, and were set to travel back in the first week of August, 2021.
- Since IOM had confirmed transportation for 42, we still have a gap in securing resources to transport the remaining 48+ girls once they consent. We also still do not have resources for the mandatory COVID- testing which will cost UGX 75,000 per girl.

Indicator 1.2a: Number of children that have received immediate rehabilitation services per year.

A total of 119 children (58 girls, 61 boys) have received holistic rehabilitation services within this reporting period including 56 children (49 girls, 7 boys) who were resident at our Transitional Rehabilitation Homes (TRH); 14 babies (6 girls, 8 boys) were rehabilitated in partnership with Teresa Babies' Home; 4 boys rehabilitated in partnership with Agape Ministries; 1 girl referred to Retrak – Hope for Justice; 7 children (4 girls, 3 boys) rehabilitated at the community level; and 45 boys rehabilitated at Nakivubo Blue Primary School and later Kaazi National Scouts Centre in partnership with CRANE, KCCA and MoGLSD, among others.

During rehabilitation, all the children received holistic care including shelter, comfortable beds and beddings, clothes, underwear, a comb, petroleum jelly, tooth brushes and tooth paste, shoes/ sandals, 4 nutritious meals a day, clean drinking water, and all the basic necessities, among many other rehabilitation services.

Through etiquette classes, they were taught how to keep themselves and their environment clean; how to bathe, make their beds, brush their teeth, comb their hair, cut their nails, wash their clothes, and so forth; habits that were deemed very important in preparation for reintegration.

Indicator 1.2b: Number of court care orders processed

Court care orders were processed for 45 children who had been undergoing rehabilitation within the period. Plans to process court care orders for the remaining children were put on hold due to the national lockdown. The court care orders are meant to provide legal authorization for DP to keep the children in their custody for a specified period of time.

Indicator 1.2c: Number of individual child care plans developed

Individual care plans were developed for all the children in residential care. The individual care plans guide in how to support the individual children's rehabilitation, as well as life upon reintegration.

Indicator 1.3: Number of rescued children that have received psychosocial support per year.

All the children have received psychosocial support services within this reporting period, either on individual bases or in groups including - individual one-on-one counseling, group counseling sessions, health education talks, pre-HIV-test counseling, pre-Covid-19 counseling etc. They have also participated in daily fellowship meetings, play therapy, and open heart sessions, among others; all aimed at helping them to cope with whatever issues they are struggling with. Overall, we had daily fellowship meetings with the children to help them reconcile back to God. We had 7 family time sessions, 9 etiquette sessions, 17 group counseling sessions and 17 health education talks, all aimed at creating safe spaces for children to freely share their opinions about different things, provide feedback on service delivery, as well as help them to resolve whatever issues they struggle with.



Children engaging in play therapy during family time



L: A happy girl showing off her colored Bible-picture. M: Spiritual welfare officer leading the children in fellowship; and R: an assessment session for a child by the spiritual welfare officer.

Indicator 1.4: Number of children received individualized catch up education services using creative methods in preparation for enrolment for formal education:

Educational assessments were conducted for all the children to aid in grouping them according to their learning abilities in order to support each individual child, as well as monitor their progress towards achieving individual learning objectives. It was noted that most of the older girls had never been to school and their interest in class was low. Therefore, the teachers worked on more practical ways of engaging them to build their interest in school. 75 lesson plans were developed to aid in creative teaching in numeracy, literacy, art and crafts, agriculture, computer lessons, and health science, among others. Monthly individualized child education assessments were conducted for the children to monitor their learning progress. The children also received individualized feedback in regards to conduct, smartness, academic performance, corrections done for the different subjects and received re-affirmation and guidance in order for them to do their best at the Centre. Between 20th to 21st of May, and between 8th and 9th of June, the children sat for their midterm and end of term examinations respectively; which indicated that the children had shown significant improvement in learning compared to when they had just joined the creative learning centre, with an average performance of 50%. The children were fascinated by the idea of going through their files and past papers as most of them were seen looking through their files over and over again.

One class day was conducted on 27th May in which the children in the TRH got opportunity to show case what they had learnt to their parents/ caregivers who had come to visit them. This activity also acted as a reconciliation visit in preparation for reintegration. Only 8 out of 15 mobilized parents came, which was a little disappointing for the children who had taken days off to prepare and were very excited about seeing their parents and showing off what they had learnt.



Children involved in creative arts and shading



Some of the photos taken during class time within the quarter.



Girls participating in weeding the banana garden at the Buloba TRH



Children welcoming and entertaining their parents during the CLC class day in Buloba in May.

Indicator 1.5: Number of children received triage, standardized, specialized and general optimum health care services:

Initial health assessments were conducted for all the 119 rescued children both at the sickbay and in partnership with Mengo and Rubaga hospitals who provided more specialized dental, eyes and HIV testing /check-ups. All assessed children received an initial dose of de-worming medications and were managed for existing health concerns. A total of 462 cases of illnesses were registered and successfully managed within the sickbay at the Transitional Rehabilitation Home (TRH). Common health concerns included malaria, wounds, upper respiratory tract infections, skin infections fungal infections, dental pain, gastro intestinal disturbances, allergic conjunctivitis, Warts and abscesses, among many others. We noted an increase in the number of malaria cases treated, which led to more emphasis being put on prevention of malaria through appropriate use of mosquito nets. All the children responded well to the different treatments administered and continue to participate well in the different activities within the home. The majority of the children were observed to have poor dental hygiene and were recommended for dental scaling and polishing; 36 girls required dental filling at Mengo Hospital as such treatment required specialized equipment. We also received a team from the eye department of Mengo Hospital on 23/04/2021 who conducted eye assessments for all the girls at the TRH. The assessments revealed that an 8-years-old girl was blind was unable to see once she closed her right eye. 17 girls were diagnosed with allergic conjunctivitis and received treatment for it.

Three of our essential staff including the nurse, the driver and a social worker tested positive for the corona virus, pushing us to test all the children in the TRH to ensure they were safe. Thankfully, all tested negative, and we have put strict measures in place to protect them from any exposure and infections.



Nurses giving first aid to the newly rescued children



Children undergoing specialized dental treatment at Mengo hospital.



children undergoing eye assessments at Mengo Hospital

Health Education Sessions

17 health education sessions were carried out within this reporting period, focusing on dental and self-care; practical sessions on brushing where every child received a new toothbrush; 3 sessions on HIV/AIDS spread and prevention; first aid measures, fire safety where a fire safety demonstration was conducted; prevention of diseases and personal hygiene; Covid-19 prevention measures which included; proper usage of face masks, proper hand wash demonstration, 2 meter distance rule and avoiding of touching Mouth, Ears And Nose; among many others.

Indicator 1.6a: Number of children whose families are successfully traced:

Families were successfully traced for a total of 121 children (98 girls, 23 boys) including the 70 children (61 girls, 9 boys) intercepted in Napak while in transit, and 51 children (37 girls, 14 boys) who were receiving residential care services.

Indicator 1.6b: Number of children who are successfully reintegrated in safe families and communities:

A total of 83 children (67 girls, 16 boys) were successfully reintegrated in safe families and communities within this reporting period including 70 children (61 girls, 9 boys) who were intercepted and reintegrated in Napak, and 13 children (6 girls, 7 boys) who were receiving residential care. Of these, 6 children (5 girls, 1 boy) were babies below 2 years old, who were reintegrated with their mothers in April within Karamoja, while the rest were reintegrated in different districts outside Karamoja.

Reintegration plans for the remaining children were suddenly interrupted by the national lockdown and ban on inter-district travels.



Some of the caregiver's bonding with their children in preparation for reintegration. The babies were rehabilitated in partnership with Teresa Babies' Home.

Strategic Objective 2: To strengthen the sustainability and social support systems and structures at both beneficiaries and organizational levels to be able to provide greater access to basic child protection rights services for minimum donor dependence by the year 2021

Indicator 2.1: Number of children who received educational support services (School fees, scholastic materials, psychosocial support during follow up visits, and other services)

A total of 376 children (228 girls, 148 boys) received different educational support services within this reporting period as shown in the table below, against an a 2020 target of 540 children (292 girls, 248 boys).

Service Type	Boys	Girls	Total served
School fees payments	101	101	202
Scholastic materials	72	57	129
Psychosocial support during follow up visits	148	228	376
Services limited to children in special category			
Pocket money	19	20	39
Foster Upkeep	12	12	24
Rent	10	3	13

Indicator 2.2: Number of households received inputs for economic empowerment:

A total of 31 households were assessed within this reporting period. However, only 8 were able to receive inputs and resources for economic empowerment, against a 2020 target of 180 households. Plans to reach 22 more families within June were disrupted by the sudden national lockdown to minimize the spread of the coronavirus.

Indicator 2.3: Amount of money raised through the DwellPlus, PaperChain, and agent banking to strengthen Dwelling Places' sustainability & reduce donor dependency

Only UGX 3,776,352/= has been raised through these specified avenues within this entire reporting period. Major hiccups faced include the following:

- Limited sales of crafts in UK due to COVID 19 – only 1 order has been made this year.
- The farm was to be leased in January; but only 1 person expressed interest after the advert, and was willing to start in June 202. When he was contacted in June, he suggested that this is put on hold because he was strained financially due to COVID-19 effects

The appropriate recommendations have been to:

- intensify development of plans to diversify markets for the paperchain crafts;
- Develop new plans for the Buloba farm; or re-advertise the farm; or wait for the 1 person who was wanted to lease Buloba farm until he gets funds.

Strategic Objective 3: To improve learning and policy change for street connected children (3-14 years) in Uganda through positive advocacy and child rights engagements with policy makers and duty bearers by the year 2021

Indicator 3.1: Number of government officials engaged on prevention of child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children:

We did not have funding for any directly planned engagements with the Government officials. However, we have still worked creatively to ensure that at least 29 Government officials were engaged in Kampala and Napak, to support our interventions including rescues, rehabilitation, reintegration and community dialogues in both Kampala and Napak on prevention of child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children.

On 3rd April, we partnered with law enforcement officials from Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) to conduct mass rescue of over 40 Karamojong street connected children. We also worked with KCCA and the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MoGLSD) to rescue and rehabilitate 161 street connected boys during the national lockdown. KCCA and MoGLSD have also been very instrumental in supporting us to process travel permits to facilitate the repatriation of 62 Karamojong children who had been resident at the TRH to Napak for reintegration.

Further still, at the community level, we have worked very closely with the office of the Napak District Probation and Social Welfare Officer (DPSWO), the Napak district Education Officer and the Napak district Child and Family Protection Unit (DCFPU) officer of Police to conduct a number of activities in Napak including trainings, community dialogues, and interceptions, among others.



The Karamoja program lead and the DCFPU interact with intercepted children and traffickers at their police post in Kangole within the reporting period.



The Acting CD orienting some of the KCCA officials (Law enforcement team) before the mass rescue on 3rd April 2021



The probation officer talking to the community members during one of the DP conducted community dialogues in Nawatom Village in the second quarter

Indicator 3.2a: Number of community dialogues conducted on prevention of child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children

20 community Dialogues have been conducted in 20 villages including Nawatom, Nakwakwa, Rapada, Cholicholi and Kalokuruk villages in Lorengecora Sub County; Nangatunyo, Kogete, Lorupayo, Lokitela and Lorukumo villages in Matany Sub County; Namugit, Lokarujak, Nakicelet, Lopeta and Lolemuyek villages in Lokopo Sub County; and Kailikong, Loparpar, Nakatiyat, Lomuria and Logolosimit villages in Lopeei Sub County. Overall, a total of 2,115 community members (703 males, 1,412 females) were reached, including 29 people with disabilities (13 males, 16 females). Participants were exposed to key concepts in child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children (CT&SEC); preventive measures against stigmatization and discrimination tendencies of/among survivors; the negative effects of CT&SEC on the children; and the roles of actors in prevention of CT&SEC. Participants included community leaders (Local councilors), Parents, elders/kraal leaders, youth and community actors such as Village Health Teams, community mobilizers, Child Protection Committees, teachers among others.

Agreed/ Suggested Actions:

- There is a need to form a special forum for engaging local youth groups on reporting related CT/children's outmigration and SEC incidences.
- Actors - specifically local councilors, youth counselors, village health teams, child protection champions, kraal leaders, school management committees and council of elders should be brought on board to act as anti-trafficking task force in specific parishes and villages.
- Village monitoring support groups should be selected to join efforts with local councilors (LC1's) and have household registers for tracking the presence and movement of children in each village.
- Identifying agents involved in recruiting children either in local communities or in urban towns to be dealt with or brought to book.
- Train the Local Council one chairpersons (LCI's), Parish Chiefs, LCII's and LCIII's on issues concerning child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children to increase their knowledge, and strengthen their capacity to respond accordingly on prevention.
- Government and partners should continue intercepting and resettling children in their homes and handing them over to their parents rather than keeping them in jail.
- Field staff should be on the lookout to inform people on any gathering so that the community is fully made aware of CT and CSEC.
- Dwelling places should conduct radio talk shows and air spot messages for a wider coverage to inform the community on CT and SEC Program.
- Community leaders should be sensitized on their responsibilities.



Community dialogues taking place in Kalokuruk village, Lorengecora and in Logolosimit Village Lopeei, respectively

Indicator 3.2b: Number of Religious and Cultural leaders engaged on their roles in child protection and prevention of outmigration:

On 17th and 18th of February 2021, 46 out of the targeted 50 cultural and religious leaders (35 males, 11 females) were trained on their roles in prevention of child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. The training which took place at St. Daniel Comboni Parish hall was facilitated by the Karamoja staff team; with an aim to empower religious and Cultural leaders with knowledge to enable them to create awareness on Child Trafficking, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, existing laws and reporting mechanisms within their respective communities. The participants included representatives from different faiths - catholic, Anglican, Islam, Pentecostal assemblies of God, Message Church and Apostolic church; and cultural leaders from Lokopo, Lopeei, Matany and Lorengecora Sub counties in Napak.

The cultural leaders cited boda Boda cyclists as common transporters of girls in the villages during odd hours, and would be categorized as priority target for engagement on CSEC/CT prevention.

Agreed Actions:

- Religious and cultural leaders committed to design work plans for awareness creation on CSEC & CT within their communities.
- The religious leaders appreciated the need for an integrated community outreach and pledged to explore these.
- Report CSEC and CT related cases/ crimes to the responsible authorities such as LC1, Police, Probation Officers, and CPC's among others.
- Integrating CT/CSEC in peace talks and other platforms.

- The religious leaders pledged to use platforms such as churches, mosques and crusades to create awareness on CSEC and CT.
- Popularizing the toll free No: 116 and ensuring community members utilize it to report abuses and any other form of violence within communities.
- The cultural and religious leaders to utilize the local radios in terms of radio talk shows to disseminate the message on CSEC and CT.

Challenges faced:

- Participants turned up late for the training due to the insecurity threats in their villages.



Religious leaders in a group discussion during the training



Cultural leaders actively participating in the training

Indicator 3.2c: Number of Child protection champions (CPCs) identified and trained to be responsible for lobby and awareness creation at the community level on the child protection

ordinance and the developed bylaws; identify risks of sex trafficking, and respond, report, refer and follow up identified cases; and monitor children's regular school attendance:

Through the different community dialogues and positive parenting training sessions, we were able to receive 80 people (36 women and 44 Men) who willingly volunteered, based on an approved set of selection criteria to be champions in supporting local level advocacy against Child Trafficking and sexual exploitation, as well as spearhead child protection interventions. This number comprises of 20 from Lokopo (8 women; 12 men); 20 from Lopeei (10 women; 10 men); 20 from Lorengecora (7 women; 13 men) and 20 from Matany sub counties (11 women; 9 men). Their trainings, which had been planned for June 2021 got delayed because of the lockdown as well as the delayed development, review and approval of the training materials at different levels.

Indicator 3.2d: Number of national and internationally recognized children's days commemorated:

2 international days were commemorated within this reporting period in which Dwelling Places facilitated children to participate in and share their opinions. These included the International Day for street children which was commemorated on 12th April, and the Day of the African Child commemorated on 16th June.

1. The International Day for Street Children (IDSC):

In Napak:

It was the first time that the day was being commemorated in Napak district and Karamoja as a whole. As such, we conducted a radio talk show to create awareness about the plight of the children being exploited in SEC and other avenues on the streets. It was a live phone-in talk show which hosted the Napak District Senior Probation and Social Welfare Officer, represented by the Matanyi sub county CDO Abura Jolly Grace, and two staff members from Dwelling Places' Napak Office. Given that it was the first time IDSC was commemorated in Napak district, it was very important to have a Local government official represented to elaborate what the day was all about and how it related with Napak district, following several reports citing Napak district as the largest source district for children on the streets. The talk show also largely focused on the relationship between out migration of children from Napak district, Child Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of children.

In the course of the talk show, listeners had an opportunity to call in and share some of the following feedback:

- A caller appreciated the programme and said that one of the major factors pushing children out of the district was because there were no job opportunities in Napak to support those who had finished school, in order to support their siblings

- Another caller suggested that government should take lead in following up on reintegration in order to know their needs at the village level so that services can be extended to them
- A third caller observed that if parents could understand, love and stay with their children, out migration would be reduced.

The show ended with a call to the listeners to always report cases concerning children within their communities to the relevant authorities.



On the right, the CDO Matany stresses a point during the talk show and on the left the entire team in the studio at Ateker Moroto FM on 12th April 2021.

IDSC at the National level:

A number of activities were conducted in partnership with the Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE) and the Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN) under the theme **Make Access for Street Children a Reality** with specific focus on national registration services for street connected children as it was a major hindrance for them to access social services, like education, shelter, medication and treatment, food, water etc. This year's theme was building on the IDSC campaigns for the last 3 years that focused on step 3 of the 4 Steps to **Equality** encouraging governments and communities to ensure that street-connected children had access to the same essential services as every other child, such as hospitals and schools, to enable them reach their full potential.

As such, a dialogue was held between children-in-street-situations and relevant duty bearers including the Executive Director of the National Children's Authority – Mr. Martin Kiiza; the commissioner, Child and Family Protection Unit of Police – Ms. Maureen Atuhaire; and the KCCA Probation and Social welfare Officer – Ms. Zaina Nakubulwa, among other key dignitaries. A short documentary was played in which street connected children shared their experiences and their most urgent needs and expectations from the government including the need for support to access education, medical care, shelter and equal treatment with some measure of dignity. Some street connected children wrote a letter to the Minister of State for youth and child affairs, Ms. Florence Nakiwala Kiyangi and handed it over to Mr. Kiiza to deliver it on their behalf. In their letter, the children cited some of the challenges they faced on the streets including police brutality, lack of food, being treated like rubbish because they

were dirty, among others; and called on the Honorable Minister through her office to extend help to them.



Street connected children reading their letter during the dialogue on 12th April 2021 at the National Children's Authority (NCA) Office in Kampala

Agreed actions:

- Ms. Maureen Atuhaire agreed that there were gaps in the handling of street connected children, and called for child friendly spaces to be formed in the police.
- M. Zaina Nakubulwa, observed that rescue of children from the streets needed to be done in a coordinated manner.
- The Executive Director of CRANE, Ms. Faith Kembabazi told the dialogue that the COVID 19 had disproportionately affected the street connected children, who ended up on the streets because of domestic violence, family discord, child neglect, poverty, war and calamities. She observed that the above were some of the pull and push factors that CSOs needed to holistically address so as to reduce the prevalence and predicament of children in street situations

In unison, CSOs called upon the National Identification Authority (NIRA) and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to proactively support children in street situations to obtain legal identity cards so that they can gain access to some basic services, such as education, justice and welfare support.

Child Participation: As children were not able to participate in large numbers due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we instead worked with partner organisations to mobilise street connected children to do an art workshop, drawing their messages to the Government, expressing their needs and what they wanted the Government to do for them. Dwelling Places mobilised the children who were undergoing rehabilitation to draw pictures depicting

what they think the government can do to make them feel safe. Meaningful messages were then shared on social media as we did social media campaigns, ensuring that the children's voices were heard. The images were also displayed during the dialogue conducted at the national level.



A display of street connected children's art expressing their needs and asks of government – displayed during the 12th April dialogue at the NCA office in Kampala

2. Day of the African Child:

In June, we partnered with organizations under the Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN) and the Uganda National Children's Authority to commemorate the Day of the African Child under the theme; *"30 years after the adoption of the Charter: accelerate implementation of Access to justice for children as we implement the Agenda 2040 for a Uganda fit for children."* It was quite sad that many of the big plans for this commemoration had to be cancelled abruptly as a result of the National lockdown that was declared only a week before the D-day activities, giving partners very limited time to plan and execute alternative plans that would ensure compliance with the COVID-19 Prevention SOPs. The national lockdown also greatly affected the participation of children from the project areas due to very poor connectivity – attempts to move children to areas with better connection were not consented to by the caregivers due to fear of the corona virus.

However, we were still able to participate in a few online activities including the following:

On 16th June 2021, Dwelling Places supported two children in Kampala to participate in a live discussion featuring the Assistant Commissioner Youth and Children - Mr. Mondo Kyateka; the Director Free Child Uganda - Ms. Winfred Adukule; and the Assistant Department of Public

Prosecutions Officer (DPP) in charge of Gender, Children and Sexual Offences – Ms. Samali Wakhooli (Police).

Key Recommendations from this live session:

- The need for the Government to establish a juvenile court like it is in the US, so to foster quick access to justice for children because “justice delayed is justice denied.”
- Ms. Samali Wakhooli noted that government through the ODPP’s office acknowledged that the majority of the courts were not child friendly to allow them testify comfortably. However, follow up on visual screens was being made to make it easy for children to testify in court. Many of the courts did not have the facilities at the moment.

On 21st June, two other children were facilitated to participate and represent their counterparts in a dialogue with Members of Parliament (MPs) on budgeting for children in relation to Uganda’s commitment to African committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). The dialogue was an online event that live-streamed on facebook, zoom and on Family Television.

Key issues raised during the dialogue:

- The heart-breaking effects that the COVID-19 pandemic had had on the national education system and if the national budget for the new financial year had taken this into consideration;
- Hon Kutenyo appealed to fellow MPs to adopt the norm of not passing a budget that was not child friendly, the same way that they no longer passed budgets that were not gender sensitive;
- MPs were reminded of their mandate to determine appropriation of funds to ensure that children were adequately catered for in the national budget, more especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- The gap in technology was raised as a major barrier to access to education for children in rural areas during this pandemic when learning has been taken to online platforms;

One of the child representatives made this statement; *“Upon hearing the budget being announced, I would like to know whether the budget caters for things like soap, sanitary towels and under wear for our sisters. These are some of the things that pushed our sisters into child abuse and exploitation last time.”*

Further still, on 26th June, two of our beneficiaries featured as panellists at the ICON Enterprise Family dialogue on the roles of parents in the protection and promotion of children’s rights in families, in relation to the 2021 focus on “making Africa fit for children.” One of our beneficiaries shared her experience in a foster family and how it had nurtured her; and provided guidance on how parents can protect their children from trafficking and sexual exploitation. She also advocated for parents to create a comfortable and friendly environment that motivates children to open up about things affecting them, in order to prevent child trafficking and sexual exploitation. The second beneficiary appealed to caregivers to create opportunities for their children to share what makes them happy/ unhappy.

Indicator 3.2e: Number of child protection champion groups trained on children's rights and positive parenting:

On 27th January 2021, a training was conducted at Kapuat Primary School, Iriiri sub county, for 27 Child Protection Champions (11 females & 16 males) including religious leaders, Child Protection Committees, LC1s, Senior Assistant Secretary and representative LC3, identified across Iriiri sub county in Napak, on safeguarding with focus on promotion of the welfare of children; protection of children from harm, and providing a protective shield for the children. Participants were equipped with basic knowledge on forms of child abuse and referral mechanisms in cases of child abuse. The training was conducted in partnership with the Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE)



Participants attending safe guarding training

Indicator 3.2f: Number of Positive parenting trainings conducted for parents and caregivers:

A total of 12 Positive parenting trainings were conducted within this reporting eriod, including 10 conducted within Napak, and 2 conducted in Kampala.

In Napak, 10 positive parenting trainings were conducted in Nakwakwa, Nawatom and Kooma villages in Lorengecora S/C; Nangatunyo, Lokupoi T/C and Kogete villages in Matany S/C; Lokarujak and Namugit villages in Lokopo S/C, and Loparipar and Kailikong Villages in Lopeei Sub county; with an overall total participation of 1,134 parents/ caregivers (392 males, 742 females) out of the targeted 1000 parents and care givers. They were trained on child rights and child protection, positive parenting skills, CT & SEC risk identification, their responsibility in monitoring children both at home and away from home, how to respond, report, refer & follow up on CT & SEC cases, negative social practices that devalue children's access to education, and the dangers and risks of CT & SEC.

The participants comprised of parents, caregivers/guardians and other community members such as LC1's, elders, youth, cultural and religious leaders and bar owners selected majorly from Sub Counties where Dwelling Places was implementing the GFEMS program.

The trainings were participatory, and everyone was given a chance to share their experiences, feelings, thoughts and ideas; including the vulnerable groups such as the elderly, PWD's (CWD's), and CT/CSEC survivors among others.

Issues discussed included:

- Key concepts of parenting, positive parenting and their meaning and application in their context;
- The definition of a child, child rights and child protection;
- Alternative positive parenting skills and mechanisms that can be used to raise children within the community, such as protecting and promoting children's rights to life, health, education, food, shelter, clothing, participation, and nondiscrimination, among others; protecting and safeguarding children from any form of harm and abuse, trafficking, unsafe migration, sexual exploitation;
- Risk identification factors for CT&SEC; and response;
- Their responsibility in monitoring the status of children both at home and out of home to prevent CT&SEC;
- The Community's responsibility in identifying and addressing the issues of negative cultural and religious practices that are against children's growth, education and decision making in realizing their full potential;
- The parents and caregivers were able to easily identify and list the parenting gaps that existed within their family units, villages and communities, including the following:
 - Lack of love from the parents towards their children;
 - Alcoholism/ drunkenness of parents;
 - Discrimination against children by the parents;
 - Cultural attachments e.g. early marriages and bride price;
 - Lack of basic essentials provided to the children;
 - Child abandonment and neglect;
 - Overdependence of parents on children and thus exposing children to risks like child labor, unsafe migration, trafficking, sexual exploitation, viral diseases/ STI's, among other risks.

The participants were encouraged to be close to their children, and work to provide for their basic needs such as food, clothing and education to protect them from abuse and exploitation.

Agreed/ Suggested Actions:

- The parents and the caregivers whose children are influenced to move and disappear without their notice resolved that they were going to work with actors like the LC1's, Police to deal with the challenge of peer pressure through identifying those who collected and

took their children to other areas without their (parents/ caregivers') knowledge or consent



The community members attending positive parenting in Loparpar (L) and Namugit (R) villages, respectively



Photos taken during Positive parenting trainings in Koomo village Lorengecora and Lokupoi Village Matany respectively

In Kampala, we also had 2 four-day trainings conducted for a total of 23 parents/ caregivers (22 females, 1 male) of children who were undergoing rehabilitation in preparation for their reintegration.

The first training which had 6 caregivers of the babies who were at Teresa Babies' Home happened from 13th to 16th of April at Dwelling places' main hall on positive parenting; with topics covering the role of family and different stakeholders in safeguarding children, and child trafficking, among others.

The second training took place from 25th-27th of May at Dwelling places main hall with 17 parents (16 Females, 1 Male) with topics covering child protection, parenting skills, Basic business skills, Health and Spiritual nourishment of both children and caregivers, among others.

The caregivers shared the pain that they underwent after the immediate rescue of children on 16th of March and 3rd April respectively; and the few days they had spent in prison as a punishment for neglecting their children. They promised to be champions of change in Karamoja for people to stop sending their children to the streets and also acknowledged their mistakes of neglecting children at the end of the training.



Photo showing the caregivers training in April

Indicator 3.2g: Number of Community case management conferences conducted to equip community members with the skills to discuss cases and hold duty bearers accountable for action:

4 case conferences were conducted in the 4 sub counties or Matanyi, Lorengecora, Lokopo and Lopeei where Dwelling Places is implementing the GFEMS project with a total of 243 community members (74 males, 169 females) participating, inclusive of 3 PWDs (1 male, 2 females). The conferences were done in references to the cases identified from the villages. The cases of trafficking were documented by the Probation and Social Welfare Officer, CDOs, LC1 and the police.

A number of actions were advanced by the participants during the case conference including the following:

- All the participants commended the idea of community case conference after realizing it as a platform where silent cases can be raised by communities more easily in the presence of stakeholders.
- The LCI chairpersons were tasked by the CDO's to register all the children who were missing in their villages and submit the lists to the sub county offices.
- Koblin re-habilitation center to train survivors who were identified in the conference. The principal of Koblin was contacted by the Probation and Social welfare officer and the District child and family protection unit officer of Police (DCFPU) to find out if there were any vacancies and there was a positive feedback from Koblin to train the girls in vocational skills.
- Interceptions to be continued by the police and further establish check points where none existed.

- Child protection champions to start identifying and reporting cases of child abuse such as trafficking, sexual abuse, neglect, domestic violence to different actors like LC1, parish chiefs, CDO's, probation office and the police.
- Community actors to mobilize children in mass numbers to enroll in schools and the Local Government through the office of the district education officer to ensure the children study freely under the UPE bursary scheme.



case conferencing going on

Indicator 3.2h: Number of school administrators and teachers trained on their roles in monitoring children's attendance and behavior patterns, to identify signs of abuse and exploitation, and appropriately respond/ support CT and CSEC victims and those at risk:

This training took place on 4th and 5th February 2021 at St. Daniel Comboni parish hall and St. Kizito Hospital Hall respectively in Matany; facilitated by the Napak District Education Officer (DEO) and Dwelling Places' GFEMS project coordinator, with a total participation of 159 school administrators and teachers (102 males, 57 females) out of the targeted 200. Only 32 schools were able to participate out of the planned 35 due to very long distances and fear of insecurity within the district.

Day One had 71 school administrators and teachers (46 males and 25 females) from 16 primary schools including Apeitolim PS, Lomaratoit PS, Alekilek PS, Kapuat PS, Pilas PS, Lorengecora PS, Cholichol PS, Lobok PS, Lopeei PS, Lorunget PS, Loparipar PS, Lokopo PS, Kalochonga PS, Lokarujak PS, Nakiceelet PS and Longalom PS; and

Day 2 had 88 school administrators and teachers (56 males and 32 females) from 16 schools (13 primary and 3 secondary schools) including St. Daniel Comboni SSS Matany, Kokorio PS, Lokupoi PS, Loodoi PS, Matany PS, Morulinga PS, St Andrew's SSS Lotome, Lomuno PS, Kalokengel PS, Lotome Girls PS, Lotome Boys PS, Kangole Boys PS, Kangole Girls PS, Kangole Girls SSS, Kalotom PS and Lokodiokodioi PS.

Group discussions, plenary discussions as well as analyzing case studies were the preferred methodology used to help the teachers to be able to understand and appreciate their roles in monitoring, identifying and supporting victims of CT & CSEC.

Agreed Actions:

- Teachers agreed to involve parents and local authorities in monitoring children's attendance, behavior patterns at school, how to identify signs of child abuse and appropriately respond and support CT and CSEC Victims.
- School administrators and teachers committed to support initiatives aimed at upholding the rights of children, and fight against out migration in Napak District.
- They committed to actively refer cases of child abuse to the relevant authorities for action.
- School management Committees were tasked to keep monitoring the welfare of both children and teachers while in the community because there was a lot happening to them during this pandemic.
- Teachers and school administrators agreed to have dialogues with parents, authorities and religious leaders on absenteeism of a child from school and also follow up children at their homes.
- School Administrators and Teachers were assigned to develop their respective schools' attendance improvement plans and submit to DEOs Office by 15th February. We have been in contact with the DEO to follow up on how many schools had developed and submitted their attendance improvement plans (as they had committed to send these to the DEO). The DEO confirmed that so far, only 5 schools had submitted their **School Attendance Improvement Plans**, while the other schools had submitted **School Improvement Plans** instead, and have been asked to revise and submit the right document as agreed.

Feedback collected:

- The District Education Officer (DEO) expressed gratitude for the training on monitoring attendance as no other partner had ever trained teachers on this particular subject.
- The participants appreciated the training. More to that, they requested to be provided with handouts of the training materials.
- Each school committed to develop Attendance Improvement Plans for their respective schools.
- Participants noted that attendance roll calls were usually done by teachers but they were not done in the perspective of monitoring and tracking attendance of individual children and understanding why the children were not in school. The training provided new insight on this.

The training also focused on collecting feedback from the teachers on how the COVID-19 pandemic had affected their families and communities. Some of the effects included:

- The increased hunger in the communities
- Because of the prolonged schools closure, the families struggled to feed/ take care of their children due to limited finances as many families lost their only sources of livelihoods.
- The moral decay of their pupils and students whom they encountered in the community was appalling. For example, one teacher lamented; *“My heart grieved as I heard the language my student was using, how she disrespected her elders. It seemed like the child she was in school and the one I was seeing and hearing speak, were 2 different people;”* while another participant shared *“Now the parents have known the great role that teachers play in the lives of their children because we have had many call us to go and discipline their children. All along, we thought that home was safer than school. The pandemic has proved otherwise.”*

Challenges faced:

The transport refund that was budgeted for was not enough for especially the 6 teachers who were coming from as far as Apeitolim. Apeitolim is part of Lokopo Sub County and it is 243 kilometers to and from Matany. The fact that there was no public transport in that area, forced participants to hire motor cycles (boda boda). These had to wait for them until the training ended and then take them back, otherwise it would be more expensive if they had to get other motor cycles from Matany to take them back. We appreciate the leadership team for their quick approval to add resources for this team when they were urgently called upon.



Teachers and school Administrators listening to the DEO during the training

Indicator 3.2i: Number of child rights clubs established/ empowered with information on their rights and supported to lobby their leaders at community and district level on issues affecting them:

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, most of the club activities have been on hold since March 2020 with the first indefinite closure of schools in prevention. In October, schools were opened but only for candidate classes, and no extra activities were accepted, until after they had completed their final examinations in quarter one of this 2021. As such, it was important that we followed up the clubs to monitor their wellbeing, and agree on new plans for 2021, among other things.

On 18th - 25th May, 2021, follow up was done for 5 clubs established in Loodoi PS, Longalom PS, Loparipar PS, St Andrew's SSS Lotome and St Daniel Comboni SSS Matany. The following was discussed:

- Record of progress of club activities for each club in the school;
- Feedback on the implemented activities of the last year and last one month;
- Planned activities for the next 3 months and action points to be taken into consideration.

Key findings:

- Re-election of club leaders was done because the old executives had left since they were in candidate classes (P.7s and S.4s)
- The club activities had been affected because all the schools had to catch up with the time lost during lockdown hence no activity had been implemented by the clubs.
- Patrons agreed to develop new work plans for 2021 and submit by June 2021.
- Phased school reporting was a challenge faced during follow up because the old members of the clubs had already left school for holidays which made it difficult to have feedback on activities planned for the clubs.



Sample photos taken during follow up with the clubs at Loodoi PS and Longalom PS

Also, 8 new child rights clubs have been established within this reporting period in different schools including Lopeei P/S, Lokopo P/S, Nakichelet P/S, Loodoi P/S, Matanyi P/S, Kokorio P/S, Lokupoi P/S, and Morulinga P/S. These are in addition to the 11 clubs that were established in the previous years. Memoranda of understanding were signed with school administrators of 11 Child Rights clubs (CRCs) including the above mentioned 8, plus Loparipar P/S, Longalom P/S and St Daniel Comboni SSS Matanyi to provide evidence for the establishment of the clubs; guidelines for the operations of the clubs, as well as clarity on the relationship between DP, its partners, and the clubs. We also met with some of the first members, and offered guidance in the selection of the club committees, including chairpersons, Vice chairpersons, Secretaries, Treasurers and executive committee members, among others in the following schools.



L: A club inception meeting in one of the schools; R: signing of MOU with administrators of one of the schools

However, this activity, just like all the other activities targeting children in the Child Rights Clubs was put on an abrupt hold due to the national lockdown and abrupt and indefinite closure of schools to minimize the spread of the coronavirus. Alternative plans to establish community child rights clubs as opposed to waiting for the re-opening of schools (which might never happen in this 2021 due to the uncertainties around it) have been discussed, documented and submitted to the donors for approval before roll out.

Overall, a total of 275 children and youth (140 boys & 135 girls) were interacted with in all the 13 schools visited within the second quarter of the year.

Indicator 3.2j: Number of 8 radio talk shows and broadcast pre-recorded radio messaging to publicly share collected information on prevention programs and results in Karamoja and Uganda

Three radio talk shows were held in and outside Karamoja within this reporting period aimed at creating awareness on CT&SEC in reference to the Day of the African Child focus of making Africa fit for children. In the current context of COVID 19, all shows were conducted using the phone call method. The talk shows were aired in local languages of Luganda and Ngakarimajong.

Ateker Moroto FM

This show took place on the Day of the African Child itself 16th June 2021 and featured the District Child and Family Protection Unit (DCFPU) Officer ASP. John Robert Ojanga and the Community Liaison Officer for Dwelling Places, Bob Mudong.

Mudong, briefed the listeners on GFEMS Program and its CT&SEC intervention being implemented by Dwelling Places in partnership with Terre des Hommes Netherlands in Napak district. He enlightened the listeners on the issue of child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children in the context of Napak district in particular. He explained the concept of trafficking as a process of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, maintaining and obtaining a

child for labor, service and exploitation. He further explained sexual exploitation of children as a form of abuse in which children are engaged in commercial transactional duties and acts such as prostitution, early marriages or forced marriages. According to him, this practice was common in peri urban and rural communities of Napak where children were influenced to go for harsh labor, optional transaction sex or forced marriages in exchange for money and cows.

Overall, the panelists had to relate the theme with the protection of every child against violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse. The talk show was conducted in Ngakaramajong. Unfortunately, we were unable to get feedback from the listeners for instance their reactions, experiences and reflections on the issue of CT, SEC and the rampant outmigration of children in Napak district due to poor connectivity of the call.

Mama 101.7 FM

This is a community radio based in Kisaasi Kampala. It was the first time the issue of Child Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in Children was the main topic of discussion. As such the media house gave Dwelling Places a bonus show to ensure more people get the chance to hear the message on CT&SEC. Due to the level of awareness created, the show host extended the show for an extra hour at free cost.

The talk show on 10th June featured a representative from Willow International Lillian Ayella; while the bonus show on 27th June featured a child advocate in Dwelling Places, a Dwelling Places' staff, and a Representative from Willow International.

Some feedback registered from Callers:

- CT and CSEC was a relatively new topic for many of the listeners who called in appreciating the program and the awareness they had received on CT&SEC. They requested for more programs and awareness to be taken to the grassroots level
- One of the callers' knowledge was still very limited to the people who go to the Arab world seeking for employment. He said he did not know that CT was actually taking place in Uganda.
- A caller requested to know why perpetrators were not arrested and why such cases did not make news.

It was explained that sometimes cases of CT&SEC were reported to the police but the evidence collected could not be used in court to prove anything, leaving the culprits to go scot free. However, a number of likeminded CSOs including Dwelling Places and Willow International are working in partnership with the Office of the Director Public Prosecutions to ensure prosecutor-led investigations where the police works together with a prosecutor to collect evidence that can be used in court. In addition, they were also informed that some of the CT&SEC cases may not appear in news as they were still in court and putting them in the media may jeopardise the process.

CBS FM

The talk show was aired on CBS FM on 16th June, in commemoration of the Day of the African Child (DAC). The show was aired in *Luganda* with aim of creating awareness on CT&SEC to the populace in the central region that speak *Luganda*. The talk show featured a CSO representative and partner to Dwelling Places from Children At Risk Action Network (CRANE), Mike Luweesi who works as a Safe Guarding Officer.

The main topic of the day was: **How does this year's Day of the African Child (DAC) theme resonate with the situation of the Ugandan child in reference to CT&SEC.** This was a 30 minutes talk show aimed at awareness creation on CT&SEC hence no phone-ins considering the fact that it was DAC. The show host gave an opportunity to the CSO representative to expound on what DAC was all about and how CT&SEC married into this year's theme: "30 years after the adoption of the Charter: accelerate implementation of Agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children".

He explained that as CSOs working with children at risk, they would like to put more emphasis on aspiration of *the Agenda 2040 of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of children*, which provides for the protection of every child against violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse. He added that it was obvious that children that had fallen prey to CT&SEC were definitely not receiving the protection they rightfully deserved, their innocence was abused and they were exploited by selfish people. He cited that big industries were well known for exploiting children

He called upon transporters to join hand in the fight against CT&SEC to ensure a collective effort in prevention of the vice by making sure that all children they transport are accompanied by an adult.

In conclusion, he called upon government to put strategies that ensure children are protected from all forms of exploitation which will in the end result in a Uganda fit for children. He advised parents to make family planning a priority. He added that parents should now know that every additional child is equivalent to more work and if you cannot ably care for them, the traffickers will come into play and take advantage of their vulnerability. He however, encouraged children to always be responsible and not to just run away from home to the streets where they end up being exposed to so many risks including sexual exploitation.

Indicator 3.2k: Number of theater plays at the community level during dialogues aimed at creative passing of behavior change messages:

Since January 2021, we have been working with 4 local drama groups from Lokopo, Lopeei, Matanyi and Lorengecora to develop scripts for lays that would be acted out during community dialogues to create awareness on CT&SEC with an overall goal of reducing the numbers of children being trafficked out of the district for exploitation. The groups received

guidance in writing and producing their scripts based on key CT&SEC issues identified at the local level, adaptable strategies for prevention, and packaging the information in a manner that will be understood by the targeted communities. All the groups had never written

All the scripts went through a vigorous process of review and corrections before they were submitted to TdH NL and GFEMS for their final approval before roll-out.



Members of two drama groups being engaged on script writing and other related activities within the MDD program

Indicator 3.2I: Number of times radio drama series is aired in the local language, reaching all areas of Karamoja to share cases, lessons learned, success stories and challenges, etc.:

In January, the team developed a Terms of reference (TOR) for script writing and production of the drama series, as well as scouting and engaging several potential service providers to discuss the drama series concepts and obtain their price quotations for comparison. We found that their quotes were over 10 times higher than what we had budgeted for. We then reached out to one radio station within Moroto (Ateker FM), and found that their charges were not as expensive, though still higher than our budget.

After almost 7 weeks of so many back and forth discussions with Ateker FM in Moroto, the most listened to radio station in Napak, we were finally able to obtain a quotation and proposal for the production and airing of radio drama series for 12 weeks within our available budget. This was a great milestone as the directors had initially quoted over 3 times more than what had been budgeted for.

The script writing, production and airing processes were however delayed by the process of reviewing and approval of the TOR for this work. In order to save time, we went ahead to engage the team in the development of the scripts. These scripts were submitted to Dwelling

Places at the end of June, reviewed and edited before submission to TDH NL and subsequently GFEMS for review and approval before actual production.

Indicator 3.3: Number of targeted CSOs partnered with to promote children's rights:

We have been very actively engaged with 3 CSO networks including the Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE), Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN), the Napak Children at Risk Action Network (NACRAN) and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons Uganda (UCATIP).

- **UNDER CRANE:**

We worked together with partners to organize national level events on the International Day for street Children - 12th April, where we called on the Government to provide equal access to social services for street connected children, to reduce their vulnerability to abuse and exploitation. It is important to note that children on the streets also include victims of sexual exploitation as well as those trafficked for other forms of exploitation. CSOs made a joint statement to government asking for the following:

- National Identification & Registration Authority (NIRA) and the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MoGLSD) to proactively support children in street situations to obtain legal identity cards so that they can gain access to some basic services, such as education, justice and welfare support.
- Prioritize and Emphasize Child Friendly Protection rather than punishment of street connected children because many children end up in street situations due to lack of adequate and safe life alternatives. Thus, government should recognize that to many of these children, gathering together in open and relatively safe public spaces is not a choice but an essential aspect of their lives. Criminalization, forcefully removing, arresting and / or brutalizing these children for occupying streets and other safe spaces and the manner in which these acts are committed by law enforcement agencies during curfew hours or "street round up" operations needed to be revisited.
- The Police and other law enforcement agencies
 - Need to refrain from detaining street connected children and ensure they are protected from disproportionate, unlawful and discriminatory tendencies meted out on them simply because they were found on the streets;
 - Need to establish child-friendly mechanisms of reporting and even responding to violence, discrimination and other forms of rights violations against street connected children. There is also need to enhance access and the confidence or trust of street connected children in utilizing established reporting and response mechanisms
- MGLSD should take appropriate steps to ensure street connected children acquire safe temporary accommodation where they are provided basics like water, sanitation, health

care, food, relevant rehabilitation, empowerment and resettlement services. MGLSD should work and support CSOs offering such services to street connected children.

- MGLSD, Ministry of Health and other relevant stakeholders should establish mechanisms in public health facilities that enable street connected children to access essential health services particularly in the wake of the COVID – 19 pandemic. This necessitates removing requirements that oblige street connected children to provide identity documents or to have an adult caregiver present before they are allowed to access essential health care services. Targeted and tailor made health-related information should be availed to street connected children.

We also worked with both CRANE and UCRNN to organize the Day of the African Child – 16th June events and activities.

Further, in response to the desperate cries of the street children who had been “abandoned” on the streets when the national lockdown was declared, we have worked with CRANE, the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MoGLSD) and Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) to provide rescue and protection services for 161 street children who were left hungry and desperate on the streets when the lockdown was announced. The children will be referred to partners after the 42 days for further support in family tracing, reintegration, and skilling, among others.



A photo of the street children lining for registration upon arrival at the quarantine venue

- **UNDER UCRNN:**

UCRNN has been very instrumental in establishing links with the government and relevant national level duty bearers during the commemorations for the International Day for street children, as well as the Day of the African Child. (Please see under 1.2.1 for more details)

As such, we are working with UCRNN, UCAA, and C&D, among others on logistical arrangements for the repatriation of over 90 Karamojong girls who were trafficked to Nairobi for exploitation, with evidence (such as pregnancy and STIs) that some were engaged in Sexual Exploitation. Plans are underway to bring them back to Napak by the end of July, and to help them in sustainable reintegration and offering further support to these including skilling, Income generating activities and enrollment into mainstream education. It is important to note that the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has committed to cover transportation for 42 girls up to Entebbe airport, leaving a balance of 48+ girls still needing transport. Dwelling Places and partners will cover costs of rehabilitation, family tracing, reintegration, economic empowerment/ skilling/ educational support where appropriate and any other follow-on support once the girls reach Napak district. Below is a summary of the latest updates from IOM as well as our Kenyan counterparts

- On mode of transport, IOM had initially planned to airlift the girls. However, we feared that this might create excitement among the local people, and become a pull factor. This also meant that we needed to find additional resources to transport the girls from the airport up to Napak, yet these funds were not available. As such, IOM was making some internal consultations to opt for the road transport that will aid re-routing to Karamoja from the eastern points of entry.
- As IOM engaged with the Ugandan High Commission in Kenya to obtain travel permits for the girls, it was discovered that the information provided by the girls in the first place was wrong/misleading information (names, locations and contacts) when compared to that at the TIP secretariat. Fresh screening was carried out on 7th July and a afresh list was to be shared on 8th July to enable comprehensive risk assessment on IOM's side, and family tracing and preparations on the side of Dwelling Places and her partners before return.
- Out of over 90 girls rescued, only 42 girls had so far willingly consented to coming back home, and these were now the ones being planned for, and were set to travel back in the last week of July.
- Since IOM had confirmed transportation for 42, we still have a gap in securing resources to transport the remaining 48+ girls once they consent. We also still do not have resources for the mandatory COVID- testing which will cost UGX 75,000 per girl.

• **UNDER NACRAN:**

Dwelling Places facilitated a coordination meeting on 26th May on child protection in which partners shared updates of what they had done so far, what plans they had, and brainstormed on recommendations for challenges faced. Dwelling Places' staff took this opportunity to share with the district about activities that had been implemented under the project and some of the challenges that had been faced. The meeting was attended by 19 participants including the sub county CDOs from Ngoleriet, Lokopo, Lopeei, Iriiri, Lorengecora S/C and Lotome Sub county, the District Education Officer (DEO), The District Security Officer

(DISO), the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Secretary for children's affairs and implementing partners including UCAA, C&D, KIDEP, ADOL, and ECM, among others.

- **UNDER UCATIP:**

Several meetings have been conducted with UCATP partners to plan for the World Day Against Trafficking in Person (WDTIP) to be commemorated on 30th July. Members agreed on a series of activities that would feed into the main day celebrations. Members were encouraged to share their advocacy activities in the month of July so that the coalition could come up with a calendar of events. Members agreed to have 6 teams to plan for children and Youth engagements, Partnership, Main day celebrations, Prosecution, Protection, Prevention and Social Media engagements. Dwelling Places was nominated to take lead on the pillar of Prevention and Children's engagements.

Dwelling Places is planning to conduct 4 main activities to create mass awareness on CT&SEC in light of the current COVID 19 pandemic. These activities include a virtual children's dialogue on their perspectives on CT&SEC in the context of COVID 19; radio jingles on Ateker FM IN Moroto with pre-recorded messages from child survivors / those at risk from the 4 sub counties; sponsoring weekly 3-minutes discussions on Ateker FM for one month to create mass awareness on CT&SEC, and a radio talk show on the D-Day (30th July) where the participants will generally analyze the issue of CT&SEC within Napak and Karamoja as a whole.

Indicator 3.4: Number of Private sector actors engaged on their role in child protection and prevention of child trafficking:

78 out of 80 targeted Private sector actors (61 males, 17 females) including bar and disco owners; hotel, restaurant and lodge owners; transporters (*boda boda* cyclists; lorry, Noah and taxi drivers; and bus turn-boys) operating within the GFEMS project areas were engaged in a training on 23rd February 2021 at St. Daniel Comboni Parish Hall; with an aim to lobby for their commitment in child protection and prevention of Child Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation (CT&SEC) in their respective areas of work.

Agreed/ suggested Actions:

- Create awareness to the communities on CT&SEC and forced marriages in exchange for animals or bride price.
- Identify role models in communities to talk to communities especially those who do not want to send children to schools, and work with Local Council to handle most of the cases in communities
- Reporting abuses of child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children to relevant authorities such as LC1's, child protection committees, Community development officers, probation and social welfare officer, Child and family protection unit of police, district low enforcement officers and utilization of 116 toll free number.

- Making follow up of all cases that are reported to ensure that they are handled according to the laws of the country
- Probing and identifying the perpetrators of child trafficking and commercial exploitation of children.
- Advocate for the establishment and functionality of the police check points where none exist like Apeitolim and Nyakwae exit ways.
- Participate in the process of formulating bi-laws in the communities.



Private sectors attending the training



Private sectors discussing in the group

Strategic Objective 4: To strengthen the institutional and organizational capacity of Dwelling Places to successfully engage partners, secure projects, identify and manage diversified funding, and effectively and efficiently manage and implement existing projects by the end of year 2021

Indicator 4.1: # of partner CSOs/ networks/ Government departments mapped out and with MOUs

To enable us to remain in legal books with the Government, our national NGO registration was renewed within this reporting period. Certification of our permit and collection of the actual registration document was interrupted by the lockdown. The DP Lawyer was to follow up on this to till completion. A soft copy permit was sent to Dwelling Places within the quarter and was being used as the Organization waited for the final copy.

One memorandum of Understand was developed, reviewed and submitted to the Uganda Police Force to concretize our working relationship with them. This originated out of a requirement to submit names of all the Law enforcement officials that we targeted to work with in the GFEMS project to the American Embassy for the Leahy vetting compliance. The nature of the Ugandan Police is that they are not specialized, and are rotated on a regular basis. We felt that we might get names for vetting, only for these officials to be rotated during the course of the project. This posed a major challenge to this process, leading us to start developing a memorandum of understanding with the police – as a recommendation from the Director of the Child and Family Protection Unit to enable us to obtain a wider range of names for vetting to avoid any interruptions in the project implementation.

Further, we also renewed our membership with three major networks that we have been a part of, including The Consortium for Street Children (CSC), Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN); and the Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE). Dwelling Places (in 2020) paid for a life membership in the Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons – Uganda (UCATIP). These networks have given platforms for Dwelling Places to learn, enter new partnerships, as well as speak louder on issues affecting children.

A major challenge faced here was the outbreak of the coronavirus and the National lockdown which disrupted the process of the renewal of the National NGO Registration. The death of two senior staff at the Police headquarters due to COVID 19 also led to the place being closed off to the general public, and all staff working from home, which generally made it very difficult to conduct any follow ups on the progress of the MOU within the second quarter.

Indicator 4.2: International collaborations established/ strengthened with DP UK/ USA Chapters:

While the establishment of the DP USA Chapter was put on hold since 2020 due to the lockdown and the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to maintain good working relationships with DP UK through regular online meetings, emails, and responding to all requests for information in a timely manner.

There have also been major changes in LifeChange Church, that we hope will improve the coordination and communication between Dwelling Places and sponsored children, and their US-based child sponsors.

Indicator 4.3: % of funding generated by DP chapters for DP Uganda:

Overall, Dwelling Places received UGX 229,861,783/= from DP UK; and UGX 99,590,738/= from LifeChange International within the reporting period (January to June 2021)

Please refer to the below tables for total funds received between January and June, 2021, broken down into quarter one and two respectively.

Table 1: Funds received between January and March 2021:

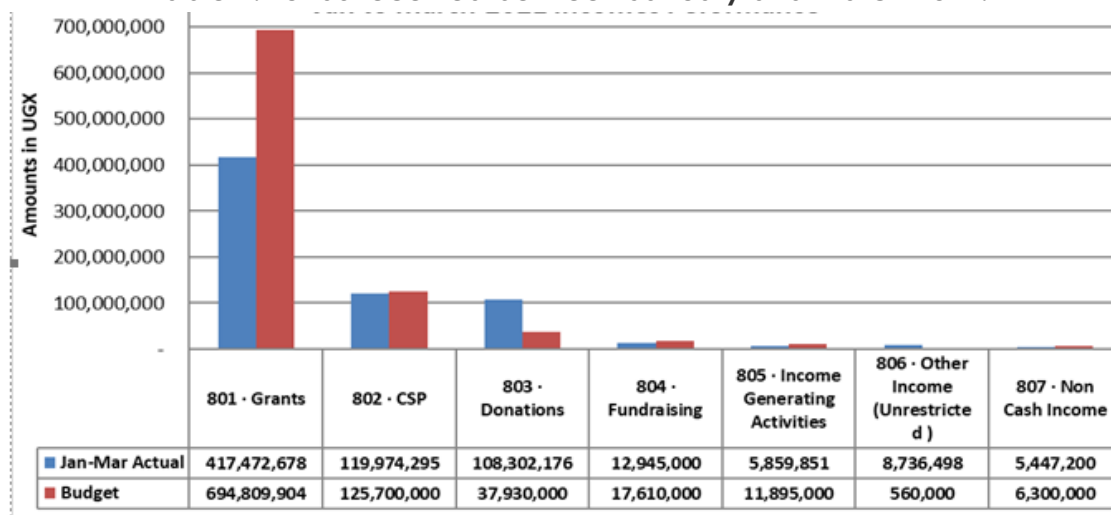
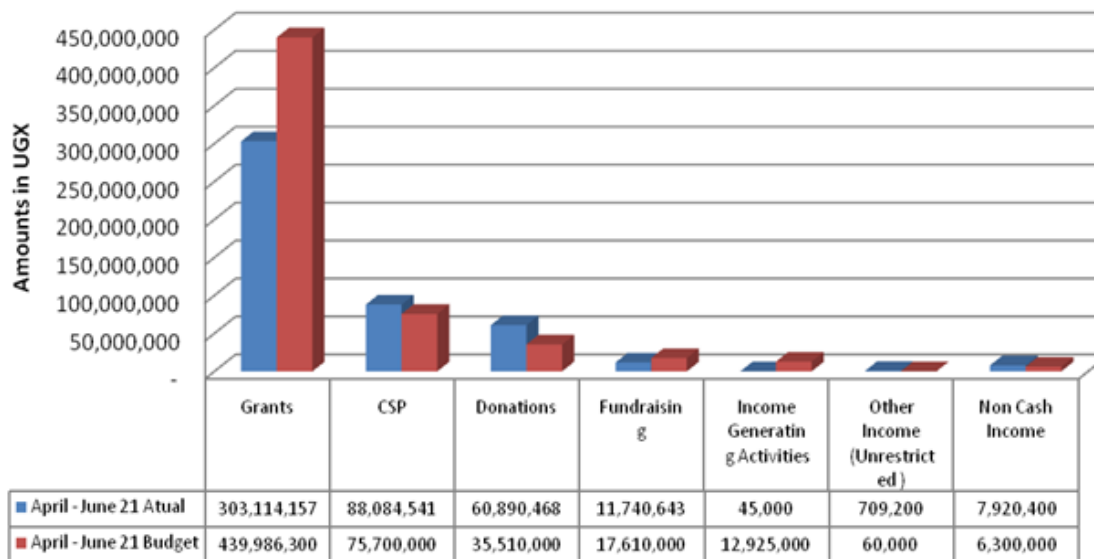


Table 2: Funds received between April and June 2021:



Indicator 4.4: Strengthened governance, leadership and management structures at Dwelling Places through trainings and knowledge sharing:

One training was conducted on 6th May 2021 by Mrs. Fiona Kanyike, one of Dwelling Places' Board members on preparation of Board Papers. This was motivated by the identified need for a great improvement in the quality of reports that the Leadership was submitting to the Board of Directors for deliberations, given the fact that they were all from diversified backgrounds with different interests and very limited time to analyze reports of more than 3 pages. From the training, the Directors and Managers were helped to understand the major composition and characteristics of a professional Board Paper, which has led to an overall improvement in the quality of reports submitted since then.

Further still, an Organizational Participatory Capacity Assessment was conducted by Terre des Hommes Netherlands in April 2021 at the Dwelling Places' Head Office, Mutundwe, Kampala, in 4 main categories, including 1) Governance; 2) Financial Management; 3) Program Development and Monitoring; and 4) Quality of results and effectiveness of programs.

Dwelling Places has been working with Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TDH NL) since 2016, where TDH NL is a funding agency, while Dwelling Places is the implementing partner. As part of their commitment to support the organizational capacity development for their local implementing partners, TDH NL has been conducting annual participatory capacity assessments, and used the reports to 1) identify key capacity gaps and plan appropriate trainings for the implementing staff; and 2) hold implementing partners accountable for addressing capacity gaps that are within their ability to address within a given timeline.

Highlighted strengths:

- Dwelling Places was a fully registered NGO with Clear Vision-Mission statements that were regularly reflected upon during program review meetings. The organization was fully compliant with statutory regulations regarding renewal of registration and had a diverse Board of Directors in place.
- The organization had a fully composed finance team - with qualified staff. The organization also had an accounting system that was user friendly and conducted annual audits.
- The organization had in place a system for storing her data per project. The organization developed a work plan from individual and project work plans which guided the organization's operations. The organization had a well-documented Theory of Change in which all activities implemented were rooted.
- The organization and staff had a very clear focus on child rights with all related laws and documentation. Child participation was emphasized and there was intentional involvement of beneficiaries in program design. The organization had a child safeguarding policy that was well enforced and all staff and associates religiously assented and adhered to it.

- Dwelling Places was part of many Child rights NGO networks including Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN), East African Child Rights Network (EARN), Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons (UCATIP), Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE), Consortium for Street Children (CSC), and Napak Children at Risk Action Network (NACRAN). Through these, they were able to jointly conduct advocacy related activities and had been able to influence policy changes.

Recommendations for Improvement:

1) Governance:

- The organization needed to ensure that there was compliance with the tax requirements;
- The Board Terms of Reference (ToR) needed to be documented and provide specific responsibilities for each of the board members;
- New staff needed to be oriented on the organization's vision, mission and strategic plan so that they are able to apply them in planning and execution of their duties

2) Financial Management:

- Staff capacity building on the accounting software needed to be done and Program staff given view-rights on quickbooks so that they may have access to information.
- Ensure that the Audit Function/esp.Internal Audit Function was in place and operational with clear guidelines

3) Program Development and Monitoring:

- New Staff needed to be oriented on the Vision-Mission and strategic direction of the organization - so that they were able to apply these in their work.
- The organization should have programme sustainability guidelines to guide the team in rolling out the strategies for sustainability.
- A Centralized database for storing M&E data for the organization needed to be set-up and accessed and used by stakeholders.
- The organization needed to have a well-documented M&E Manual - with sections and guidelines on Complaints; response and feedback Mechanisms; project reviews; evaluations; routine data collection/ monitoring etc.
- The organization needed to have in place a system for documentation and tracking action points from the different M&E activities

4) Quality of Results and Effectiveness of Programs:

- The organization needed to have a resource mobilization plan and strategies to guide the resource mobilization function.
- Though the organization had a documented pathway from interception/rescue to re-integration, there was need to have a detailed guideline and strategies on reintegration; follow-up of beneficiaries after reintegration and then exit.

Indicator 4.5: Effective management of current projects – both programmatic and financially:

While we were very privileged to receive UGX 1,151,242,107/= within this reporting period, our financial performance did not meet the minimum standard of at least 85%. We spent UGX 752,101,458/=, which is only 65.33%. A number of factors were highlighted to be responsible for this, including:

- Heavy work-load vs available staff: Generally, the available work required more staff than available to ensure their accomplishment in a timely manner. When we developed the GFEMS project, we had planned for at least 3 more staff for effective implementation. However, these 3 were not approved, leaving a very heavy workload to be completed by a very limited staff team, and yet this was the biggest project at the time. In quarter two, we had to recruit at least 10 volunteers to enable us to complete some planned activities within the stipulated time frame.
- Donor restrictions and expectations: Very many activities were also delayed due to the different restrictions and guidelines especially under the GFEMS project, many of which were new to Dwelling Places, for example
 - The requirement to have all materials approved at atleast 4 different levels (Internally, TdH NL Uganda Officer, TdH NL Regional Office, GFEMS, and JTIP) before any trainings, media productions or publications are made, with so many unending back and forth comments, revisions and queries, etc. This has delayed a number of activities, including some that have been delayed by over 4 months, as we work to seek approvals, and has also led to a disoriented staff team;
 - The requirement to ensure that no Chinese products were procured using the project funds, and verifying all service providers against a provided database to ensure that they were not blacklisted by the American Government also led to delays in planned procurements;
 - The requirement to have all Law enforcement officials vetted first before any planned engagements also affected some planned activities and expenditures like under interceptions and support of community based activities;
 - The restriction on not giving any facilitation to Government officials also meant that there is a substantial amount of money that will not be spent from our project contract and funds.
 - All consultants needed to be formally contracted, with a clearly defined Terms of Reference. While this was a good thing, the process of obtaining approvals for the developed Terms of References also delayed planned implementations.
- The Outbreak of the Coronavirus: This has continued to affect our activities in different ways.
 - Coupled with the phased re-opening of schools, this affected all planned activities involving children and youth participation. Alternative plans to establish community clubs and engage the children in planned activities were submitted

to the funding partners for approval before actual roll out in the next reporting period;

- We had planned to reintegrate 62 children in June. However, this was put on hold due to the national lockdown and restricted inter-district movements. The process of obtaining authorization from the relevant ministries and offices took longer than expected, leading to delayed expenditure in that area;
- The phased re-opening of schools also affected planned expenditures under educational support, as schools were indefinitely re-closed leaving out at least 40% of our beneficiaries whose hopes for finally reporting to school were dashed indefinitely. The team is developing alternative plans to ensure our beneficiaries have access to learning materials and a teacher during this lockdown.
- The lockdown also delayed follow up and IGA implementation activities as only two cars were permitted to move, and only one had been assigned to the staff conducting follow up and IGA implementations, while the other supported the TRH and general operations. This meant that, as opposed to having more than 3 staff out in different locations at a time, now, we could only have one staff out at a time, which reduced the number of beneficiaries who could be reached at a time by over 70%, thus delayed activity implementation.

Please see the tables below for details of our budget vs. expenditure performance, broken down into the two respective quarters – quarter 1 and 2:

Table 1: Budget Vs Expenditure for the period January to March 2021

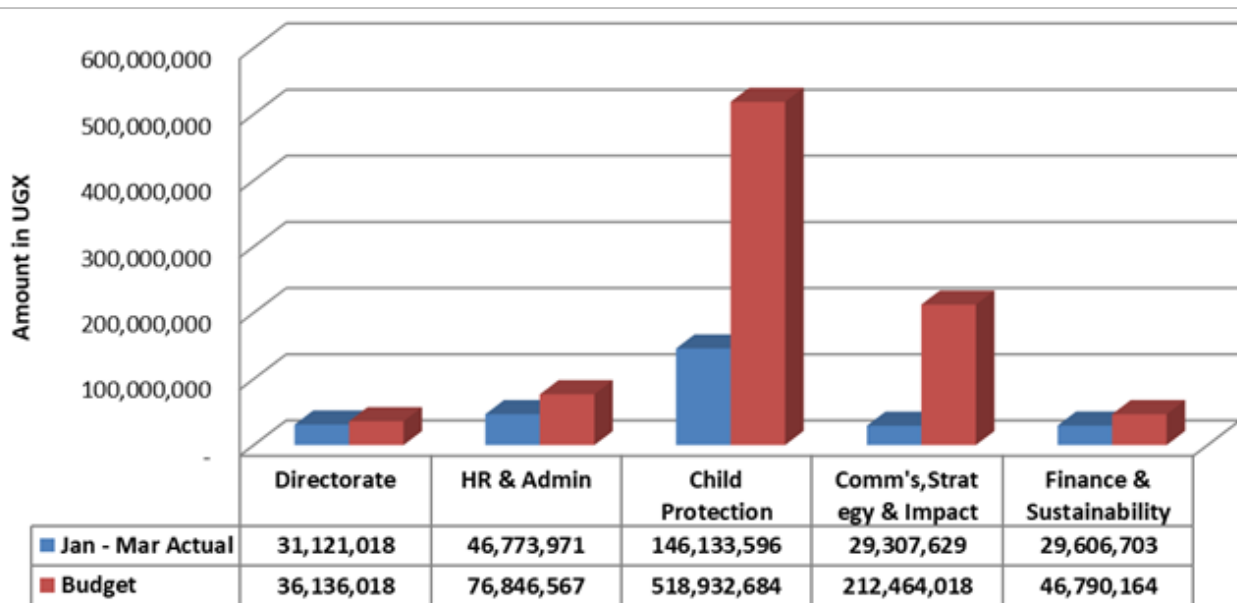
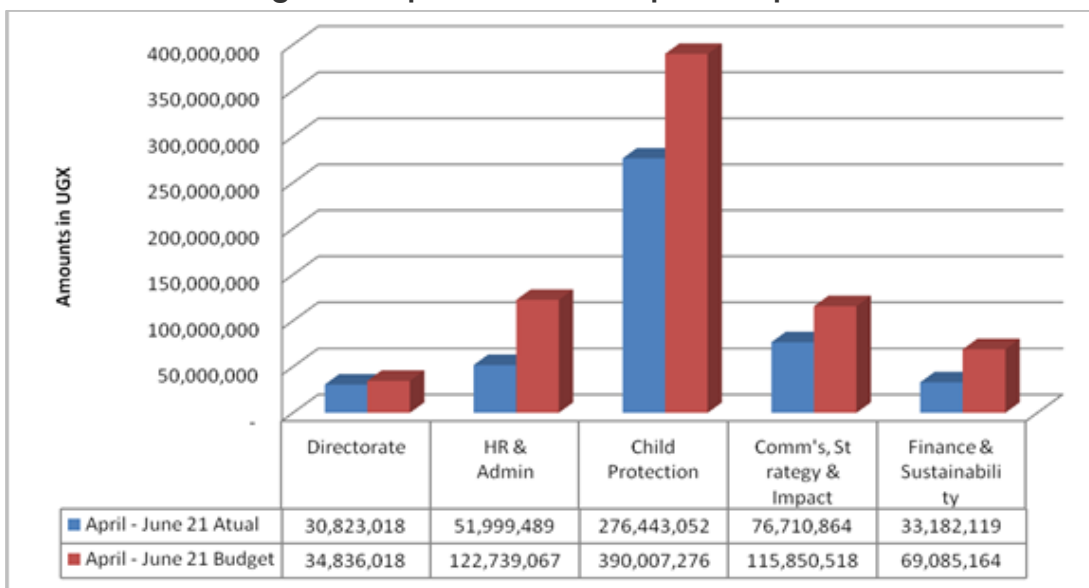


Table 2: Budget Vs. Expenditure for the period April to June 2021:



3. Challenges

Write a reflective analysis of what turned out to be less successful or even a failure

- Electricity challenges in Buloba affected the social workers who had been moved to work from Buloba. This was however fixed within the reporting period.
- Faulty or limited computers and equipment (e.g. printers) as well as unstable internet (especially in Buloba) have continued to affect timely submission of reports and completion of some tasks.
- Unconducive work environment in Buloba for the social workers who have to sit in Containers that often heat up to uncomfortable temperature levels have affected motivation and performance.
- Depositing activity funds into staff personal accounts created anxiety, as some felt insecure with the bulk amount of money being sent to their accounts, while others worried about the fact that the money was being sent without bank charges, and yet sometimes their accounts were empty which then reduced the money available to implement planned activities. Some staff were also servicing loans which they feared would automatically cut off activity funds, and put them under pressure to refund the funds and not affect activities. Discussions were held with all staff and leadership, and an amicable position was reached; 1) staff were asked to work with the finance to agree on the most appropriate ways/ preferred accounts to use for transfer of activity funds to them; 2) A clear process was shared for staff to claim back all charges incurred in withdrawing activity funds;
- Staff failure to understand their budgets, work plans and timelines, and the finance timelines (requisition, cash availability, reporting, etc) affected activity implementation.

- High staff turn-over as well as internal staff changes within the reporting period affected the effective and efficient implementation of planned activities.
- Insecurity and heavy rains in Napak affected some activities and created anxiety among the staff.
- Death of staff relatives as well as poor health among some staff and their families especially due to the coronavirus also created anxiety among the staff, leading to some emotional breakdowns and the need for more psychosocial support. These generally affected timely and effective completion of some activities.
- Heavy work-load vs available staff: Generally, the available work required more staff than available to ensure their accomplishment in a timely manner. When we developed the GFEMS project, we had planned for at least 3 more staff for effective implementation. However, these 3 were not approved, leaving a very heavy workload to be completed by a very limited staff team, and yet this was the biggest project at the time. In quarter two, we had to recruit at least 10 volunteers to enable us to complete some planned activities within the stipulated time frame.
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3. Risk Assessment

Please share any risks that have been identified that could jeopardize successful delivery of Organizational goals and impact, and how you anticipate mitigating those risks.

- The increase in the coronavirus infections in the country led to an abrupt and indefinite closure of schools, ban on cross-district movements as well as public gatherings, which affected literally every planned activity since the 8th of June 2021;
Mitigation: Develop and agree on alternative plans to continue activity implementation ensuring compliance with the stipulated guidelines and SOPs to ensure timely and successful delivery of organizational goals and impact.
- Delayed feedback and approvals of our alternative modes of conducting the affected activities has further led to a lot of time wasting within the period as the team cannot proceed without approvals;
Mitigation: Continued follow up for feedback
- For us to implement any activities in the project areas, there were also new guidelines which unfortunately came with financial obligations in facilitating lunch and fuel for the Napak district Resident District Commissioner and his security team to participate in all activities to monitor and ensure compliance with the COVID-19 prevention Standard Operating Procedures. These funds were not budgeted for, and were not permissible under the some of the projects, like GFEMS.

Mitigation: Lobby for a small allowable budget to at least cater for their fuel for the planned activities; as well as consult with other partners and lower cadre officials to find alternative ways of getting activities done without breaking the law.

- Limited participation and engagement of community members during dialogues, trainings and case conferences, among others in Napak due to lack of public address system to amplify discussions (especially outdoor discussions) to ensure that all participants were hearing. During one of the dialogues, more than half of the participants were absent minded as they could not hear what was being discussed.

Mitigation: Request for available balances under equipment to procure a simple portable and rechargeable public address system that can be used at the communities to amplify discussions and enhance participation and engagement.

- Insecurity within the project areas: In Napak, there was a high risk of insecurity due to cattle raids.

Mitigation: Following the district recommendation, reduce all planned full day engagements to half day engagements (end by 2pm) to allow time for participants to return to their homes early to avoid being trapped in fire/ bullet exchanges.

- Reduced participation of Government officials in planned engagements due to no facilitation or motivation provided for them under the project.

Mitigation: Continuous advocacy to the leaders to get their buy-in.

- Delayed engagements with the Government officials in Napak as newly elected leaders and officials were sworn-in in May, however, the district's plans to orient them were put on hold due to the mass increase in coronavirus infections and death within the country. We have been instructed to plan our engagements only after the district had completed their own orientation.

Mitigation: We have planned to find out the leaders who have retained their offices for the new term, and start engaging these.

- The new national COVID-19 prevention guidelines restricting movements and large gatherings, coupled with the rising insecurities and the heavy rains disrupted planned community engagement activities.

Mitigation: Organize meetings in smaller groups of 20 participants to ensure compliance with the covid-19 Prevention SOPs in light of the national restrictions on gatherings and inter-district travels, as well as the rising insecurities.

- Key implementing staff being exposed and falling sick from the corona virus.

Mitigation: Continued emphasis on the importance of observing the prevention standard operating procedures (SOPs), putting emphasis on social distancing as much as possible, and availing hand sanitizers, masks, and information to all staff to minimize spread; as well as motivating more staff to receive the vaccine in time. In the event that staff fall sick or

get exposed, recruit volunteers to support implementation to ensure that work does not come to a standstill.

4. Lessons learned

Please reflect on the most important lessons learned in the reporting period.

- Teamwork among staff from the different departments helped the rescue and rehabilitation team to work faster and achieve more results.
- Collaboration with KCCA helped greatly especially in arresting and remanding Karamojong parents who were exploiting their children (some as young as 5 months old) in street begging. This was also reflected in the partnership and coordination with district officials and local leadership at village level and during family assessments where we worked hand in hand with Local leaders in locating families.
- Staff flexibility enabled us to respond to emergency needs and issues during the lockdown. A number of staff willing responded to requests e.g. for staff to stay resident at the different rehabilitation points to minimize covid-19 risks on the children undergoing rehabilitation. The staff also had to be flexible especially in dealing with various restrictions – if activity A was planned but cannot happen due to the restrictions, the staff immediately jumped to activity B, as opposed to sitting back and waiting for the restrictions to be lifted.
- Managing expectations at both organizational and personal levels requires consideration of different factors including the economic, personal, emotional, resources situations, etc. to ensure that the staff are highly motivated and able to effectively accomplish their tasks.
- Effective planning and reflection before implementation: Emotional and quick decisions lead to long term negative effects on the organization. Decisions should be thoroughly thought through, and well planned with clear consideration of available resources before implementation.
- Merging activities targeting the same beneficiaries and achieving them at once, as opposed to making several independent trips for each activity contributed to saved time and costs of implementing the activities individually. The staff creatively mapped out beneficiaries in certain locations and all the different activities planned for them, and agreed to merge most of these activities to achieve them at one go, as opposed to making several trips to the individual activities. E.g. follow up of beneficiaries, letter writing, club follow up and establishment were done at once which helped in meeting targets.
- Value placed on the individual staff: We learnt to appreciate the value of each individual on the staff team, and the unique qualities (skills, knowledge, etc.) that each individual brought to the team which improved work.
- All children are unique and should be handled as unique and different individuals. This guided us in the development of individual care plans as well as developing daily lesson plans to ensure that planned services are meeting the individual needs of each child.

- Need to formalize foster placements of old children in foster care. It has help us draft a policy though still at an initial stage, follow foster procedures for families and present them to the probation officer for guidance.
- Beneficiary voices and opinions also matter: We learnt not to judge beneficiaries based on the complains raised during family physical visits or phone call follow-ups but rather to listen to both sides before drawing conclusions.
- Use of testimonies and experience-sharing for during community advocacy and sensitization engagements was found as an effective approach to deliver information to communities in a context-specific manner.
- There is strength in building our referral network, as well as maintaining proper documentation for better and quick support of rescued children and all beneficiaries.
- Effective planning makes work easy – staff can easily take their leave and work still goes on; we are able to provide clear specifications that improve requisition, procurement, concept development and reporting processes, among others.
- Always giving a second eye in all documents or work: This has helped to reduce mistakes in different areas including financial payments, documentation and reporting.

5. Success stories.

Please provide an account of any successful stories from the beneficiaries, community, caretakers, and project staff.

Case story 1:

7 years-old Miracle* (not real name) is a Karamojong girl who comes from Napak district. The parents are living in Napak and depend on peasant farming as a source of livelihood; which is not easy given the unreliable climatic conditions of Napak district. The family generally struggles to find food during the prolonged drought experienced in the district. They live in a one-roomed grass thatched mud-house.

On 16th March 2021, the child was rescued off the streets around Wandegeya, Kampala during a street outreach, and brought into the Transitional Rehabilitation Home for care and protection.

According to her, she was brought to Kampala by a relative and sent to the streets to beg as she baby sat a younger child and all money collected would be given to this so-called relative. Miracle felt sad because she really wanted to go back to her family, yet she was constantly told that she hadn't yet begged/ raised enough to cover her transport back to Karamoja. Her hope of ever going back to her family seemed like a very distant dream to her, at least until the day when Dwelling Places rescued her, and she felt some little hope, though she was not very certain if it was all real or another lie.

When she had just come into the TRH, Miracle would cry a lot, had an extensive fungal infection and did not want to bathe or even brush her teeth. She had never been to school before, as in the past, she always had to stay home and babysit while her other siblings and friends went to school.

She was generally defiant most of the times and was moody.

However, with the intentional psychosocial support given to her during the rehabilitation period, Miracle eventually settled-in well at the TRH, and starting behaving much better than when she had just come. She became self-driven and tried to follow all guidelines at the TRH. She turned out to be a happy girl as she was always smiling. She gained so much interest in the catch-up education and never stopped talking excitedly about how she had always wanted to go to school.

She also received medical treatment for her extensive fungal infection, and has fully recovered.

Miracle says that she is happy that she can now go to school as she used to stay at home and see other children go to school. She is looking so much forward to going back home, and going to school in Karamoja as she stays with her parents. *'I don't want to beg on the streets anymore'* According to her, *'I feel happy that I'm finally going to see my mum when Dwelling Places takes me home as I want to go back home'*.

Miracle dreams of staying happily with her mother and never having to beg on the streets.



Photos of Miracle at Rescue



Miracle (in a blue dress) and her friends reading a book on prevention of child trafficking at the Buloba TRH in June 2021

Case story 2:

6-years old Peter, and his two older brothers (both 13 years old) were referred to Dwelling Places by the Kibuli Police on 27th February 2021, as alleged victims of child trafficking for child sacrifice. These were very grave allegations that made the police to respond immediately and with great urgency. Dwelling Places was to provide safety, care and protection for them until investigations were concluded.

When Peter came into the transitional Rehabilitation Home (TRH), we realized that he had a lot of uncertainties and exhibited low self-esteem as on several occasions he could not express his needs. He was very anxious as he struggled to understand why police had removed him and his brothers from their home and placed them in a 'strange place.' Also, they had just been informed that they were not biological children to their mother which was very confusing for a 6-years old boy.

Growing up, Peter and his brothers had everything they needed – a very big, beautiful and spacious home (4-bedroomed self-contained house with a large beautiful garden) in one of Kampala's suburbs, with water inside and their own boys' bedroom. Peter and his brothers grew up like any other normal children – wake up, get ready and go to school, or watch TV, do homework and basic house chores during holidays, weekends and the prolonged schools lockdown. They never knew or even realized/ felt that they were not biological children to their mother (Let's call her Mary), until all the investigations started; which showed that they had had a fairly good, non-segregative child hood.

When investigations started, it was found that Peter was picked up by Mary from Nsambya babies' home when he was 1 month old; and taken to a family where he had two older brothers, also picked from another home (which doesn't exist anymore). Mary had 1 older

biological daughter who was about 14 years old at the time. Mary owned a home bakery and earned a living by baking cakes – which helped her to look after the family. She came from a very rich family and had about 10 siblings. Before their dad passed on, he gave each one of them a piece of land in Rukungiri district. One of Mary's siblings, after 7 years, came up claiming that Mary wanted to give her property to children who were not her own biological children. She reported the case to the police as child stealing, and child trafficking with intentions to sacrifice the children. The Police went and temporarily removed the children and referred the children to Dwelling Places on 27th February 2021 to enable further investigations of the case. After the police had investigated, they realized that Mary was innocent, and that she had not just stolen the children but had actually gotten some legal documents from the babies' homes that granted her legal guardianship over the children.

These revelations put the children at risk of being thrown out of the family, or being abused physically and psychologically in the cross-fire between the family members as they fought for land. This created a lot of anxiety for Peter and his brothers. They feared that they might never see their mother again. They were uncertain about what the future held for them.

At the TRH, among all the other care and protection services, they received a lot of counseling to help them to understand why they were not at their home anymore, why the police had to remove them, why their aunties claimed that they were not their mother's children, and to generally deal with whatever anxious feelings they were having, etc. Peter was comforted emotionally and psychologically, and made to feel as comfortable as possible. He was also allowed to talk to his mum on phone every time he felt anxious, which gave him the reassurance that his mother still loved him. In his own words; *"I was scared to leave mummy behind, and because I knew that somehow it was our aunt who was the one bringing us to police and away from home over some family issues."*

With time, Peter's self-esteem greatly improved as he started to freely express his needs to staff and children. As a result of the psychosocial support Peter received, he became a very happy child, always smiling, obedient and very welcoming. He started talking freely and actively sharing his opinions at organized meetings in the TRH.

But the biggest change in his life was from watching his transformation from a timid scared boy, to a very bright, happy, and confident boy who would share his opinions freely. According to him, *"I am happy that you are all taking good care of me and my brothers. I was very scared when I came here. But now I'm not scared any more. I want to see Mummy. I like staying with my mother, and I hope that my aunties do not disturb her anymore. I want to grow up and protect my family."*

On a very happy note, Peter and his brothers were successfully resettled back with their mother in March when all the investigations had revealed that their mother was innocent.

We are very thankful that God continues to provide such opportunities for us to touch lives, a warm chest to rest their heads on and a safe place to call home for children facing difficult situations like Peter and his brothers.



Peter and his brothers during a counseling session

Case story 3:

On 19th May, 2021, news sprung in the entire community of Lokali parish and during the community case conferencing activity held by Dwelling Places at Lokali that 16-years old Abura, a disabled girl had been defiled by the village LC1, who was also trying to compromise the case. Prior to this, the LC 1 of Nangatunyo village had also just called one of our Karamoja based staff requesting for support to ensure justice was served.

Abura was born in Iganga at a time when her father operated a general merchandise shop in Iganga, and were still living happily with Abura's mother. Abura was born deaf and lame. At 9 years old, she was enrolled at Kangole boy's primary school in Napak as it had provisions for children with special needs. Time came when her father's business collapsed to the extent that he could no longer continue providing school fees for Abura and her siblings; neither was he able to support the household. Abura was forced to drop out of school at this time, and her other siblings went to live with their other relatives, while Abura and her mother stayed with the father. At around 12 years old, Abura's father got another wife, which forced Abura and her mother to move back to her maternal grandmother's home in Matanyi.

Abura and her mother spend most of their days engaged in odd jobs like collecting firewood, burning charcoal or weeding people's gardens to get money for food.

At home, her mother does not treat her very well. Abura is overwhelmed with the constant quarrels and harassment from her mother, too much work, and stigma associated with her being deaf, which has occasionally led to depression. she is also poorly feed, starved and poorly dressed. Being deaf and lame at the same time, also increased her risk of abuse and anyone could easily harm her, yet her mother is an irresponsible drunkard, making her extremely vulnerable and helpless.

The child usually has misunderstandings with the mother because of continued quarrels and beating which makes her run out of home to seek for refuge elsewhere in the nearby homesteads i.e. to other relatives or even friends, which greatly exposes her to risks of abuse and violation.

One day there was a burial in a nearby homestead, which Abura's mother went to attend and spent about three days in the burial place, leaving the girl alone at home. Out of fear, she decided to go to sleep with her friends in the nearby homestead within Morualoyete village where the LC1 (about 33 years old, and well known for his promiscuity) started making moves on her; held her by the hand and took her out of the *Manyatta* in the dark, but her friends made alarm and the girl was rescued. However, the man did not give up, as he made a second attempt by going to the girl's house at night, got them sleeping, went straight to the girl, held her by her hand and took her outside the *manyattas* and a distance away where he eventually defiled her.

The friends found out about this in the morning, and tried to ask the girl to explain what had happened. They then informed the community leaders of what had happened. However, they were warned and even threatened by the LC1 and his supporters within the village.

On 24th May, 2021, Five (5) days after the incident, the information had spread all over the community. The mother of the girl got concerned and called for a village meeting which was presided over by the elders. The meeting was carried out, the LC1 was summoned and probed if he did it; he insisted he did not do it. During this time, a lot of fresh wrangles came up between the two sides. The people whom the mother of the child had interacted with including the cousin sister of the said perpetrator testified but unfortunately against the respondent (LC1). It was therefore resolved that the two go to the hospital for a medical screening which was done 5 days after the incident before the case was reported to Dwelling Place by the vice LC1 of Nangatunyo village found in the same parish of Lokali in Matany.

In her own sign language when interviewed together with those in the community who know basic sign language, the child said that, *"Despite the fact that I was rescued, I think that was not enough. The LC1 appeared again in the night when my friends were in deep sleep; he held my hand and took me outside the Manyattas in a very dark spot and a different direction not the same as previous and he used me from outside the manyatta."*

Through the Community case conference conducted in this village, the case was discussed, documented and reported to the Police of Matanyi who took their statements. Dwelling Places (DP) and the police transported the girl for medical screening. Later after interrogating the perpetrator, a medical screening was done on him as well; he was arrested and made to stay in police custody for three days while investigations were ongoing. The police could not share the medical results with DP, but decided to release the perpetrator on police bond. Unfortunately, upon his release, the man reportedly went back to the village and threatened the whole community saying that he would now just go on and marry the girl. One member of the same community felt provoked and reported the case to Dwelling Places again;

prompting the Community Liaison's Officer (CLO) to refer the case to Save the Children International (SCI), who worked jointly to see that the case was re-wakened. This brought the Regional Child and Family Protection Unit Officer of police (RCFPU) in play. The RCFPU, SCI, DP and the Crime Investigation Department (CID) of Napak had to go and re-arrest the perpetrator (LC1) who was put in a cell at Napak Police. The perpetrator was produced at magistrate court in Moroto and has been remanded for 6 months, after which he will again be produced in court since the investigations found him guilty. He is currently serving his time in Kotido Prison.

We are glad that the beneficiary was able to get justice as a result of the community case conferences and connections at the different levels. Further, through the case conferences, the mother was also cautioned about her responsibility in protecting the child from abuse, and as such, there has been relative improvement in her ability and commitment to child protection. According to Abura, *"I thank you for helping me. If it wasn't for you, the man would have come back and harmed me. At least I have some peace since he has been imprisoned. I'm relieved since the man who abused me is in prison, however much I and my mother have faced a lot of intimidation from his family, but I feel happy. I want to be able to go back to school and become someone important."*



Abura and his mother talking with the Community Liaison Officer at Dwelling Places during a follow up visit

8. Plan for next quarter.

Briefly state the plan of action for the next quarter

HO, KIA & CSC TOMBU:

- Rehabilitation, Repatriation and reintegration of 62 Street connected children currently undergoing rehabilitation
- Rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of 45 street connected children (boys);
- Continue to work with the Nairobi based partners to repatriate 35 Karamojong girls who had been trafficked to Nairobi for exploitation;
- Commemoration of World day against trafficking in persons (30th July);
- Continue to work with CSOs in the Rehabilitation of street connected children in Nakivubo Blue Primary School.
- Quarter 2 reviews and annual reflection meetings
- 2022 planning and budgeting
- Follow up of all beneficiaries
- Implementation of 92 IGAs (HO – 70, CSC – 22) in and outside Karamoja
- Development and implementation of educational support plans to ensure continued learning for beneficiaries amidst the lockdown.

Under GFEMS:

- Activity 1.1.1: Compliance with Leahy vetting requirements (TdH to provide the necessary information about the Law enforcement officers to the U.S. Embassy at least 60 days prior to starting the training of law enforcement officials.
- Activity 1.1.2: Provide relevant information on the by-laws, CSEC to S/C leaders, community CP structures, law enforcement agencies (police - CFPU; PSWO; etc) in Napak through IEC materials
- Activity 1.1.3: Support law enforcement of existing laws that prevent and punish perpetrators of trafficking for CSEC through facilitating interceptions and supporting the DCFPU and PSWO to follow up reported cases of CT and CSEC (in cases of very limited government budgets to support these)
- Activity 1.1.4: Orient 60 council members from 4 sub-counties (Matanyi, Lokopo, Lopeei and Lorengechora) in Napak district on CSEC and support them to put in place/ strengthen CSEC prevention measures that are culturally acceptable to the communities.
- Activity 1.1.5: Support the 4 sub counties to develop child protection bylaws at the respective sub county levels in line with the district level child protection ordinance
- Activity 1.2.1: Facilitate child advocates/youth to present their asks to the duty bearers at national and district levels through the national and internationally recognized days on mechanisms for effective prevention, response, reporting and follow up of CSEC cases
- Activity 1.2.2: Support club youth to attend district-level council meetings
- Activity 2.1.1: Development of a community-based referral chart to guide community members who may wish to seek for information or report cases of CSEC or child trafficking
- Activity 2.1.2: Mobilize, Train/ coach/ dialogue with 1,000 parents and caregivers from the 4 sub counties on child rights and child protection, positive parenting skills, CSEC risk identification, their responsibility in monitoring children both at home and away from home, how to respond, report, refer & follow up on CSEC cases, negative social practices

that devalue children's access to education, and the dangers and risks of CSEC and trafficking (incorporate survivor's voices)

- Conduct community case conferences in specified villages with local stakeholders to discuss cases and hold duty bearers accountable for action (incorporate survivor's voices) (specific to the cases)
- Activity 3.1.1: Establish/ support Student peer support (#SchoolsNotStreets) clubs in 35 schools within Napak to strengthen prevention, response, reporting and follow up of CSEC cases within the schools and neighboring communities
- Activity 3.1.2: Engage 280 club leaders and patrons in training camps to strengthen prevention, risk identification, response, reporting and follow up of CSEC cases within the schools and neighboring communities.
- Activity 3.1.3: Engage the clubs in 10 exchange visits to share experiences, lessons learnt, challenges and discuss possible solutions on prevention, response, reporting and follow up of CSEC cases within the schools and neighboring communities.
- Activity 3.1.4: Hold inter school debates to build children/youth capacity in public speaking, confidence, analysis and articulation on issues affecting them to enhance awareness creation within schools and communities on prevention, response, reporting and follow up of CSEC cases.
- Activity 3.2.1: Support 1500 children/ youth to participate in the district level MDD competitions to create awareness on prevention, response, reporting and follow up of CSEC cases within the schools and neighboring communities.
- Activity 3.3.2: Dialogue with the Napak District Local government and leaders on regular monitoring of school attendance records, and how they can help to increase school attendance of school-ageing children
- Activity 3.3.1: Capacity building for 200 school administrators and teachers on how to monitor children's attendance and behavior patterns, quickly identify signs of abuse and exploitation, and appropriately respond/ support CT and CSEC victims and those at risk
- Activity 4.1.1: Identify and train 80 child protection champions (groups) who will be responsible for lobby and awareness creation at the community level on the child protection ordinance and the developed bylaws; identify risks of sex trafficking, and respond, report, refer and follow up identified cases; and monitor children's regular school attendance. Note: Child protection "champions" (adults) from Iriiri will be involved to support community dialogues and share testimonies of the difference communities can make in child protection.
- Activity 4.1.2: Engage 80 private sector actors within the 4 sub counties including bar/ lodge/ guest house owners and managers, transport operators etc. to lobby for commitment to protect children/ youth from CSEC
- Activity 4.1.3: Engage 50 Religious and cultural leaders to create awareness on CSEC and child trafficking, existing laws and reporting frameworks - this is critical as they hold much power over the communities

- Activity 4.2.1a: Host annual district stakeholder meetings to share learnings on prevention programming
- Activity 4.2.1b: Conduct 8 radio talk shows and broadcast pre-recorded radio messaging to publicly share collected information on prevention programs and results in Karamoja and Uganda
- Activity 4.2.1c: Conduct 2 TV talk shows / record and broadcast television ads to publicly share collected information on prevention programs and results in Karamoja and Uganda
- Activity 4.2.1d: Use social media platforms to publicly share collected information on prevention programs and results in Karamoja and Uganda and share advocacy messaging
- Activity 4.2.2: Production of IEC materials with information on prevention programs and their positive results and dissemination in schools, communities and peer clubs - obtaining all artistic impressions, message development and submission for review and approval
- Activity 4.2.4: Strengthen networking and coordination among CSOs working on CSEC and CT to facilitate sharing of Information on prevention programs and their positive results
- Activity 4.2.5a: Popularize and support implementation of the Napak district Ordinance (passed through TdH Lobby and Advocacy activities) and local by-laws through trainings with community members. These community engagement efforts will profit from the momentum built by our Consortium partners in the neighboring Iriiri sub-county and Moroto district. (incorporate survivor's voices)
- Activity 4.2.5b: Popularize and support implementation of the Napak district Ordinance and local by-laws on radio talk shows and broadcasting pre-recorded radio messaging
- Activity 4.3.1: Conduct 40 community dialogues in 4 sub counties aimed at addressing negative social norms that promote CSEC. Subjects: need for education for their children; what communities and families can do to protect their children; practical support to start, run and expand income generating activities; how to prevent stigma and discrimination of survivors. Child protection “champions” (adults) from Iriiri will be involved to support community dialogues and share testimonies of the difference communities can make in child protection. (maximize Back home, stay home campaigns and journey of Hope to achieve this)
- Activity 4.3.2: Theater plays at the community level during dialogues aimed at creative passing of behavior change messages.
- Activity 4.3.3: A radio drama series in the local language will be produced, reaching all areas of Karamoja to share cases, lessons learned, success stories and challenges, etc.
- Activity 4.3.4: Conduct radio talk shows to address negative social norms.
- Activity 5.1.1: Provide skills training for 160 CSEC survivors to equip them with skills for sustainability and prevent re-trafficking & involvement in CSEC
- Activity 5.2.1a: Conduct economic empowerment (in the form of individualized business skills training and productive assets) of 80 parents & caregivers of survivors of CSEC to increase their capacity to monitor children away from home, and how to respond, report, refer and follow up on cases

- Activity 5.2.1b: Facilitate linkages to or form, train, and follow up with new VSLAs
- Activity 5.2.2: Provide COVID-19 support to vulnerable households extremely affected by the condition
- Activity 6.1.1: 200 Younger survivors provided with school supplies