

Child of Hope



▶ ANNUAL
IMPACT
REPORT 2020



Child of Hope's main priority in 2020 rapidly became alleviating hunger due to Covid-19 restrictions.

2020: CHALLENGE & OPPORTUNITY

Covid-19 is a huge problem in the Namatala slum – and while many people now regard it as an everyday threat like malaria, it demanded quick and effective changes in the way we worked to help families facing starvation.

In March, Uganda announced one of the most stringent lockdowns in Africa, banning travel, cars and public gatherings, shutting down schools, places of worship, shopping and entertainment centres and putting in place a night-time curfew. It helped reduce the spread of the virus, but with

families living hand to mouth they were simply not able to earn any money and food was hard to find.

People in the Namatala slum already live life on the edge and any crisis, let alone something as catastrophic as coronavirus, can tip them over into serious problems: we saw a surge in hunger, violence, theft, family breakdown and murder.

Child of Hope's work changed overnight when Ugandan schools were forced to close. Relieving hunger was the top priority and we launched two

emergency appeals to fund support: the first raised £55,304 and the second (which commenced in December) a further £13,675 by the end of the year. Every month since April, we have given regular food vouchers to around 700 families including the 600 families of our pupils, plus any other desperately needy families found by our social workers in the slum.

Staff also provided a special Christmas meal of rice, meat, vegetables and sweets for each of our school children's families offering important nutritional input on a day of celebration, when

ongoing restrictions have seriously reduced food availability and inflated prices.

When our usual work was interrupted, we shifted quickly into supporting our children and families in different ways:

- teachers have done everything possible to continue educating our pupils – including producing home working resources and making home visits;
- after re-organising the school site and a visit by the Health Inspector,



our two exam years (Primary 7 and Senior 4) were allowed back to school from October;

- our family support team gave advice and help to families in meeting their new challenges, including counselling where needed. They provided training within the community about the dangers of Covid and how to protect themselves, especially with careful hygiene measures such as thorough and more frequent hand washing;
- we also carried out monitoring of health and addressed the issues of malnutrition in our vulnerable children, such as those with sickle-cell anaemia;
- sick children were cared for, receiving the medical attention they needed from the school nurse.

By keeping in touch with families, the team was able to monitor children's safety.

Many of the children in Namatala spent their days roaming the slum, left to their own devices while parents were out, hunting for whatever food or work they could find. Children were found begging alcohol dregs and scraps of food to fill their empty stomachs, leading to a rise in teenage alcohol problems and pregnancies. By contrast, Child of Hope girls were active in supporting their mothers – a protective factor that kept them safe from the risks faced by many of their contemporaries whilst the boys, too, were better supported and more gainfully occupied.

THE OPPORTUNITY: OUR SECONDARY SCHOOL

2020 has been like a bridge between the old and new, a time when we were able to consolidate all that had been achieved in previous years – while preparing ourselves to launch into all that we are planning to do in the future. For the last few years, we have been struggling to help our pupils to progress through poor-quality local secondary schools, and now, with our own secondary school, we will be pushing forward to raise standards of education and socially responsible behaviour.

Different finishing works at the school have been going on throughout the year and we have been successful in applying for grants to bring in more books, science equipment, and solar power. Training of our new teachers has been occurring to further improve the service we offer. So, 2020 was a challenge for us but also an opportunity that we have seized hold of, adapting our work to meet current needs and to build for the future.





MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

- In February, we opened our new secondary school, enrolling 97 former pupils whom we had previously supported at local fee-paying secondary schools.
- At our nursery/primary school we had 496 slum children on roll, with 136 in the nursery department and 360 in primary classes. In addition, 21 young people were supported at vocational colleges on a variety of courses including teacher training, electronics, engineering, agriculture, catering and hairdressing.
- In emergency support of families through a voucher system we gave out 44 tons of maize flour, 20 tons of beans, 7,000 packets of salt and 3 tons of soap.



- While many school teachers across Uganda lost their jobs with the enforced school closures, Child of Hope has maintained the employment of its staff. This has ensured continuity of educational provision, which in turn enabled

them to continue supporting their own families.

- We were able to buy necessary science equipment for our secondary school.
- Graduation of vocational training students having completed their certificated courses included: 1 student of electrical installation, 3 students of carpentry, 1 student of mechanics, 2 students of agriculture, 2 students of tailoring, 2 students of hairdressing and 1 student of catering.



- Foster family placements were maintained for 31 vulnerable children who were either orphaned or deemed at risk in their own families. Foster parents are provided with a monthly sum of money to assist in the care of the foster child.
- A solar-powered pump with water tank and tower was added to the well at our nursery/primary school improving access to clean and safe water for drinking, hand washing and other hygiene/cleaning needs especially during drought.

- To meet growing energy needs in use of equipment, a grant enabled us to upgrade and extend solar power at the primary school, despite long delays due to Covid restrictions and shortage of supplies of manufactured goods.
- Our income-generating activities (IGA) programme supports needy families with training and an initial business start-up grant (around £26) to help provide a regular income. In 2020, 324 parents on the programme were unable to run their businesses during lockdown but



- are being supported to recover with mentoring from staff and access to a new micro-finance project.
- Community members received education in health care and environmental hygiene from our

family support teams. This year we focused on specific Covid-19 issues, making and handing out 2000+ masks, showing people how to build wooden washstands from sticks and string to keep dishes off the ground and to use 'tip tap' water dispensers with a pedal to avoid touching the mechanism.

- We have been awarded a grant to install an irrigation system at our rice fields to improve production and grow crops throughout the year.

SUSTAINABILITY

Promoting sustainability has always been at the heart of Child of Hope's work and we continually look to introduce local initiatives to contribute to the overall fund-raising efforts of Child of Hope.

Spare capacity in the secondary school allows us to take fee-paying students that contribute to the overall running costs; we have established a tree-growing business that will provide an income from timber sold to the building industry; while solar power, wells and rainwater harvesting systems have been installed to help the schools become self-sufficient in the valuable resources of electricity and water.

Despite the lockdown, we were determined not to allow our agricultural land to lie idle for the year. As our IGA mothers were not allowed to travel to the fields at Himuntu, local people were recruited to grow green peppers, rice, potatoes and watermelons during the first season, followed by rice and sweet potatoes in the second season.

Although the country experienced extensive floods and huge locust swarms, the produce was successfully harvested and sold at subsidised rates to people in need with some proceeds boosting lost earnings of mothers and helping to fund our IGA work.



MEDICAL SUPPORT

Even after our schools were closed, the school nurse has continued to work, providing treatment to sick children and monitoring the health of those who are most vulnerable. This became more difficult when the Government insisted on the school clinic being shut but – in whatever ways were possible and as soon as restrictions were eased – the work continued. Supplements and nutritious food were supplied to those children most at risk of malnutrition. The executive director grew a lot of salad,

fruit and vegetables in his own garden which were used to benefit these children.





IT'S OUR SUPPORTERS WHO HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN

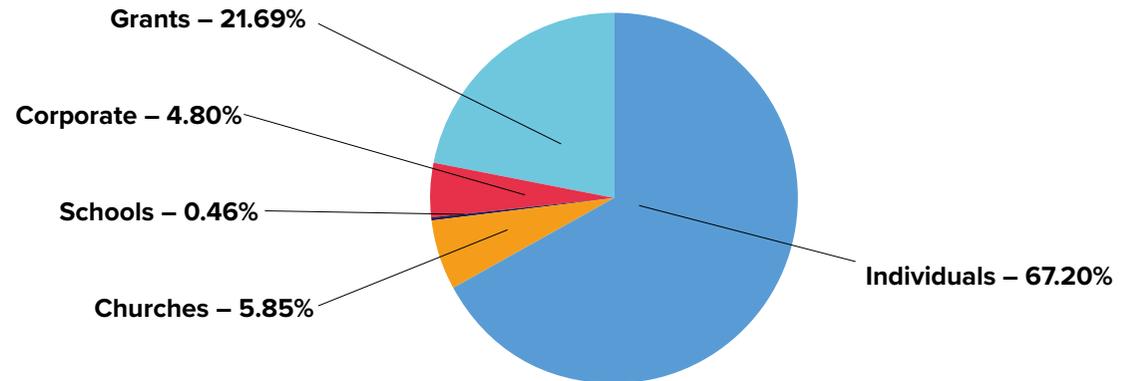
None of this would be possible without the regular support and one-off additional donations we receive. We extend a huge thank you to all our supporters.

Currently, 43% of our children are sponsored, ensuring a regular monthly income, and we continually work to attract more sponsors. We are also eager to attract sponsors for students in our two-year vocational training programmes and to our other areas of sponsorship; food, teachers, social workers and IGA.

Grant applications are regularly submitted to charitable trusts in the UK for additional revenue to meet the burgeoning running costs of Child of Hope's expanding work.

THE COST

The annual accounts for 2020 show that a total of £244,110 was received from different sources by the charity. Monies transferred to Uganda in the period totalled £230,603 and a sum of £21,471 (8.8%) was used to cover UK activities: bank and other fees, fundraising, supporter



PERCENTAGE OF GIVING TO CHILD OF HOPE UK

communications, administration, monitoring funds and accountability.

THE FUTURE

- We hope to replace worn-out IT equipment in the primary school.
- We have written and are introducing a new PSE (personal and social education) curriculum to the teachers to complement academic studies.
- We hope to extend access to solar powered irrigation across our whole farm site, increasing production and

helping our child feeding programme.

- For the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions, Child of Hope will continue to provide ongoing emergency relief to the poorest families in the slum to ensure they have food, shelter, education and essentials.
- Both the schools are actively preparing to re-open to all students as soon as Government permission is granted.

OUR VISION IN 2021

is to continue what we are doing well and expand the work so many more children and families from Namatala slum can be given a vision and a hope for their lives



See all the children back in school learning



Help more families and children in the greatest need



Support more people through our IGA programme



Expand our sustainability programme

This impact report was produced at very low cost, thanks to the generous involvement of writers, photographers and graphic designer.



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