



Annual report 2018



Training guardians about backyard gardening and nutrition

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List of Acronyms:

ANC	Antenatal Care
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
CHW	Community Health Worker
EMTCT	Elimination of Mother to Child HIV Transmission
EID	Early Infant Diagnosis
FP	Family Planning
HCT	HIV Counseling and Testing
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses
ITN	Insecticide Treated Net
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PEP	Post Exposure Prophylaxis
PHC	Primary Health Care
QC	Quality Control
QI	Quality Improvement
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SMC	Safe Male Circumcision
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
TB	Tuberculosis
TC	Town Council
TOTs	Training of Trainers
VHT	Village Health Team
VCPCs	Village Child protection committees
VSLA	Village savings and Loans Associations

NURTURE AFRICA VISION AND CORE VALUES

Our Vision:

“Empowering African families to become more self-reliant”

Our Core Values:

- Compassion
- Innovation
- Integrity
- Passion
- Team work

Our Reach:

Nurture Africa works in the Districts of Arua, Lamwo, Mubende and Wakiso

Board Members:

	Uganda – Board	Responsibility	Irish – Board
1.	Dr. Jesca Nsungwa Sabiiti	Chair person	Eoghan O Neactain
2.	Edith Namayega	Member	Brendan Kean
3.	Innocent Manda	Member	Angela McEntee
4.	Bharam Namaya	Member	Deirdre Finlay
5.	Kalemera Elizabeth	Member	Dr. Margaret Fitzgerald
6.	Misango Shirley	Member	Eoin Wrenn
7.	Robinson Ogwang	Member	Jason Campbell

INTRODUCTION

Nurture Africa (formerly A-Z Children's Charity) was founded by Brian Iredale in 2003 and officially registered in Uganda in 2005. It began informally as Irish and Ugandan youths identified a need in the community of Nansana; where a number of children were not enrolled in school and many were affected by HIV/AIDS.

As the organization grew, volunteers from Ireland worked with volunteers in Uganda to initiate projects tackling the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and supporting affected families to access quality education by providing school fees and other school requirements, helping guardians of HIV/AIDS infected children to access microfinance, and supporting child rights project, that addressed child neglect, rape and gender-based violence in communities of Wakiso District.

Nurture Africa (NA) developed from having a handful of dedicated Ugandan and Irish volunteers working in one district of Uganda to an organization of over 100 staff working in four districts (Wakiso, Mubende, Lamwo and Arua).

NA's programme core areas are **healthcare** (including primary health care, ART, maternal, sexual reproductive health and physiotherapy), **education** (including child sponsorship vocational training and community libraries), **sustainable livelihood** (training, microfinance nutrition) and **human Right** (with emphasis on child rights and gender-based violence) using the 'Rights Based Approach in project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

2018 PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS

Health

- 11,049 individuals regained their health.
- Increased access of HIV infected children, adolescents and their guardians retained in care with 1,467 clients
- Increased awareness of TB screening in the community with 317 clients and 22 tested positive.
- Improved access of HIV/AIDS testing & counselling services in the community with 11639 clients tested, 556 turning positive.
- Increased awareness in Sexual and Reproductive Health services among 2,250 women.
- Reduction in child mortality rate by 11% with 1,140 children immunized.
- Increased awareness and utilization of modern family planning methods among 1,228 women.
- Increased access of cervical cancer screening among women with 137 women screened.
- 100% reduction of new HIV infections among 37 referred cases.
- Increased awareness of ANC services among 2,319 pregnant women.
- Reduction of mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDs by 98.2%
- Increase in utilization of delivery services by 20% monthly.

Community Based Health

- Improved nourishment of 251 families trained in backyard gardening that are now able to include greens in every meal.

- Increased income levels among 241 guardians trained in income generating activities.
- Reduction in malnutrition among 100 vulnerable households through provision of food supplements.

Youth

- Increased knowledge and practical skills among 174 adolescent youths.
- Improved self-reliance among 174 adolescent youths.

Education

- Increased regular attendance of 7,077 students from primary, secondary and university provided with direct support including; school fees, uniforms and scholastic materials.

Sustainable Livelihoods

- 89% recovery was attained from repayments made throughout the year. There was improved income among 327 guardians who were able to start or continue small scale enterprises through working with their community banking groups.

Program Implementation and Achievements

Health (Medical and Community based Health)

Nurture Africa in 2018 provided unique health services including delivery services, comprehensive outreach services, 24hour care, and emergency services utilizing the ambulance.

Provision of Care to HIV active Clients

Nurture Africa has continued providing integrated HIV care and PHC. The HIV clinics operated 3 days weekly, while concurrently having daily PHC services. The clinic also runs quarterly HIV/AIDS care outreaches for clients that live in Mende, Masulita and Lukwanga-Wakiso district. These positively impacted lives of over 1467 HIV/AIDS infected persons under Nurture Africa care.

HIV Counseling, Testing (HCT) and TB treatment:

In 2018, Nurture Africa provided HCT to 11,639 clients. Among the clients tested, 556 new HIV positive cases were identified and enrolled on Nurture Africa Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART) to improve their health status. Of 317 clients tested for TB, 22 tested TB positive received the required full TB treatment contributing to a reduction in risk of co-infections in the community..

Immunizations

To promote growth and development, and reduce morbidity and mortality among the under-fives, Nurture Africa immunized 1,140 children of 5 years and below against; polio, measles, DPT, Tetanus, Pneumonia, TB (BCG), and provided deworming tablets and Vitamin A capsules. Immunization is undertaken twice a month at NA Nansana health Centre and once a month at Kasengeje within Wakiso district.

Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (e-MTCT)

To eliminate the risk of mother to child transmission of HIV, Nurture Africa introduced e-MTCT care in 2014. In 2018, 207 of the HIV Positive mothers received e-MTCT. During the year 65 Babies (40

female and 25 male), were confirmed HIV free after monitoring them for a period of 18 months registering a 98.2% reduction in mother to child transmission.

Family planning

During the year, Nurture Africa received 1,228 women for Family Planning consultations registering a 25% reduction in unplanned pregnancies.

Female cancer screening

Noted increase in demand of cervical cancer screening from 7% to 10% with 137 women screened in the year.

Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

37 clients received PEP of these 29 were rape cases and 8 were occupational accidents. The intention of PEP is to reduce the risk of HIV transmission within 72 hours after exposure. Of those provided, 100% tested HIV negative 3 months post PEP. The outcome signifies the effort, determination and collaboration between NA and stake holders in the community, who include health and community workers, Police, and Village child protection committees who were able to provide timely referral of client to access the services. Following the guidelines of the Ministry of Health, follow up at 1, 3 and 6 months was done to give continuous psychosocial support to the affected.

Antenatal Care (ANC) and Maternity

2,319 women were enrolled onto ANC at the facility, and they all received Mama Kits. 174 mothers delivered from the facility.

Physiotherapy / Disability care Program

Nurture Africa organized 1 Cerebral Palsy camp for 75 children with disability and their caretakers. The camp provided physiotherapy for the children, Health education, psychosocial support and counselling for the caretakers. This resulted in to improved quality of life of the 75 children and their families.



Physiotherapist training a guardian on how to use a standing frame.

Sexual and Reproductive Health Services (SRHS)

Nurture Africa facilitated weekly health talks from which 2,250 adolescent girls, and young women leading to a reduction in unplanned pregnancies, new HIV & STI infection & transmission. The talks included SRH education on NA health services, Family planning, HCT, Nutrition, teenage pregnancy, and condom. The information is to facilitate making of informed choices and decisions.

Community based Health Program

As part of our commitment to the health status of OVCs and their guardians on improving nutrition for the OVC and their families, NA introduced back yard gardening. These guardians were trained in utilizing limited space to grow nutritious food stuffs which include fruits and vegetables to supplement on their diet. The approach is to use appropriate technology and locally available materials for example sacks, used bottles and tins.

- The trainings were done at guardians' homes and Nurture Africa's main demonstration ensuring HIV infected women are well equipped with the knowledge and skills for more practical learning purposes. 251 HIV infected women were identified, trained on backyard gardening and improved agricultural methods, to address food security.
- Economically, empowering HIV infected women and their families, to lead happy, productive and independent lives through training 241 women in loans and business management.
- Improved retention of OVCs in schools through empowerment of 500 OVCs through educational support, provision of uniforms and sanitary wear to 50 OVCs
- Improved nourishments among 157 children through provision of food supplements.

Education Enablement

To increase access to quality education for OVCs in Wakiso, Mubende, Arua and Lamwo districts

NA supported 7,077 OVCs both directly and indirectly at all levels i.e. Primary, Secondary, vocational and University/tertiary. There has been an improvement in attendance and reduction in the dropout rate of children currently at 0% in the supported primary schools. There has been an increase in enrolment by 14% in the supported schools.



Meeting guardians with children having education support

Child Protection, Gender and Advocacy

22 cases of violence against children and women were identified and followed up, through the various stakeholders and either resolved within community structures and or reported to law enforcement agencies by community-based child protection referral structures.

Increased awareness of child rights, SGBV issues and management of cases among 6,293 refugees in Palabek and Imvepi settlement, through training of 24 CBF's, 24 Community Adults and Youth leaders. Increased knowledge in case management, referrals of victims of human rights abuse, SGBV and empowerment of Community leaders in advocacy for Human rights.

24 Refugee Welfare Council leaders capacity built on leadership and administration skills within the settlement of Palabek.

NA also promoted democracy through supporting Refugee Welfare Elections in Zone 5 of Palabek Refugee Settlement and all leadership structures filled for effective management of the Zone. This enhanced respect for peoples' rights due to the low cases of violence registered currently.

NA also supported National and Global days to celebrate the rights of people. These include women's day, Labor Day, Child rights day, day of the African child, 16 days of activism, Independence Day. Advocacy messages have been printed out and disseminated during these National and International days' celebrations.

Improved knowledge of Police officers in refugee management through training 24 officers of Palabek hence improvement in refugee perception by the refugee community.

Improved identification, management and follow up of 131 child abuse and 40 SGBV cases among an estimated population of 45,000 people as a result of provision of facilitation of motorcycles and capacity building of police.

Improved community policing and documentation of 1,605 cases due to availability of Police motorcycle. 923 cases have been mediated out of court.

Nurture Africa constructed a child friendly facility in Zone 3 of Imvepi settlement. This facility serves a population of 28,095. This facilitates provides a safe environment for children and youths.

Youth Programming

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Vocational skills development; In 2018, Nurture Africa had 1 youth-friendly corner for youth living with HIV/ AIDS to access SRH information, exchange ideas with peers as well as learn and get empowered to make informed decisions.

174 youths were trained in Vocational skills; tailoring 54 (48 female and 6 male, hair dressing 52 (1 male and 51 female), catering 58 (9 male and 49 female) and carpentry 10 male. Nurture Africa opened up urban village to enhance practicability of learnt skills by the trained youths. This improves on the economic status of the youths through the daily wage and also is a sustainability strategy for the organization.

Sustainable livelihoods / Economic Empowerment

Nurture Africa trained 261 HIV infected women (117 in Wakiso and 144 in Mubende) in loan and business management. The trained HIV infected women established income generating activities (IGAs) that improved their income. The established IGAs include; selling second hand clothes, charcoal, vegetables, fruits, shop, kiosks, crafts, and poultry which resulted into improved livelihood and health of the household members. The project had forty-seven (47) CBGs with 445(female) beneficiaries that paid back loans and with functional income generating activities.



Namirembe Mimuna aged 33, she is single mother with 5 children and operates a business in Wakiso along Hioma road. Before the support she was struggling to provide her family with basic needs. After the provision of a loan she has been able to expand her business this has changed her life in terms of being able to provide school fees and taking care of her 5 children

International Volunteers

Nurture Africa in 2018 received 168 (142 female and 26 male) volunteers between June and October. The summer took three-week placements from June to August while the October placement lasted two weeks. The volunteers came with new ideas by sharing experiences with Ugandan teachers, people in the community and Nurture Africa staff. This resulted into improved reading skills of pupils and advanced knowledge in provision of first aid.



Irish Volunteers conducting HCT in Nansana

Challenges

- Lack of a theatre for caesarian sections. This has led to referrals for women that may otherwise be handled in the clinic. Most times there is blood shortage and overcrowding of Mulago National Referral hospital.
- Delayed supply of vaccines and training of staff in vaccine management by the District government officials
- Lack of pap smears for definitive insertion of cervical cancer has led to low referral of suspected cancer screened patients.
- Reforming the attitude of parents and teachers towards corporal punishment is a slow process in all partner schools.
- Refugee influx at the settlements.

Conclusion

Nurture Africa, is very grateful to all stakeholders who have contributed to its growth and success in 2018, through funding, capacity building and guidance. We appreciate the guardians, Nurture Africa Staff and the local government officials who have played vital roles in the transformation of lives of the OVCs and the communities where NA operates.

Nurture Africa will continue to focus on empowering African families to become more self-reliant, supporting them to lead healthy and productive lives. We count at the support of all stakeholders to ensure that this is realized, and that peace will continue to prevail in the country.

Networking, Partnerships and Coalitions

NA continued working with central and local governments, sister CSOs/NGOs, CBO to achieve its vision. The key actors included: Ministries of Health, Gender Labour and Social Development, then Arua, Lamwo, Kampala, Mubende and Wakiso district authorities. We look forward to stronger relations in future with stakeholders. We appreciate all our donors and partners:

	Main 2018 Donor / Partner	Supported intervention
1	Irish Aid	Child protection, advocacy and health
2	Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation	Refugees
3	Izumi Foundation	Health - MCH
4	Lessons for Life Foundation	Education and sustainable Livelihoods
5	Jochnick Foundation	Clinic, Youth, Child protection.
6	Forsa	Community based health
7	Infectious Disease Institute	HIV Care and Treatment/ OVC support
8	Mercury Phoenix Trust	Youth/adolescent Sexual reproductive health
9	University College Dublin Volunteers Overseas	Disability programme
10	Irish National Teachers Organisation	Feeding project.
11	Quinn Foundation	Youth
12	Wise Philanthropies	Community based Health
13	Segal Family foundation	Youth programming
14	Quinn Family Foundation	Youth programming

Human resources and organizational effectiveness

COMMUNITY PROJECTS STAFF

Staff Category	Male	Female	Total	
Coordinators	3	3	6	
Project officers	9	19	28	34

CLINIC STAFF

Staff Category	Male	Female	Total	
Coordinators	1	0	1	
Clinical Officers	4	1	5	
Pharmacy staff	1	2	3	
Laboratory staff	4	1	5	
Nurses and Midwives	2	13	15	
Counselor	0	3	3	
IT Staff	1	0	1	
Reception staff/cashier	0	2	2	
Data management staff	2	1	3	
Community workers	1	3	4	42

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT DEPARTMENTS

Staff Category	Male	Female	Total	
Senior Management	3	2	5	
M&E staff	1	3	4	
HR	0	1	1	
Accounts staff	3	1	4	
Support staffs	11	4	15	29

VOLUNTEERS

Staff Category	Male	Female	Total	
Ugandan Volunteers	2	3	5	5

2018 had 105 Staffs 5 volunteers

Staff trainings and developments

7 female staff acquired trainings, 1 midwifery, 1 social work, 1 in human resource, 2 in monitoring and evaluation 1 leadership skills and 1 in accounting and finance.

8 male staff acquired training, 1 hospital management, 1 CPA, 1 Project planning, 1 in data management, 1 in Social Administration and analysis, 2 Lab technician and 1 public relations

Staff turnover and retention

The staff turnover in 2018 involved 6 staff who left the Organization while 4 staff joined NA.