

**UGANDA NETWORK FOR EMPOWERMENT OF THE
MARGINALIZED CHILD AND YOUTH
[NEMACY-UGANDA]**

ANNUAL REPORT – 2015



**Children in BasogaBaino BABA FM Studios discussing effects of
Domestic Violence on children**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADSN	Adolescent Development Support Network
ANPPCAN	African Network for Prevention and Protection Against child Abuse and Neglect
CBO	Community Based Organization
CFPU	Child and Family Protection Department of Police
COG	Children of Grace
CRO	Child Restoration Outreach
CRA	Child Rights Advocates
SRRP	Child Rights Radio Program And Strengthening Child Protection Systems (SRRP)
EG	For example
Fr.	Father
IEC	Information Education and Communication
JINNET	Jinja Network for the marginalized child and youth
LC	Local Council
Mr.	Mister
Ms.	Mistress
NGO	Non Governmental Organizations
NEMACY-UGANDA	Uganda Network for Empowerment of the Marginalized Child and Youth
NURC	NEMACY-UGANDA Rehabilitation Centre
PTA	Parents Teachers' Association
P/s	Primary School
SMC	School Management Committee
Rv	Reverend
UPE	Universal Primary Education
UTL	Uganda Telecom Limited
IBAPE	Improving Access to Basic Primary Education

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The Development Partner Terre Des Hommes Netherlands for the technical and timely financial support towards implementation of the Network's activities. Appreciations go to the Regional office in Nairobi - Kenya particularly the Regional Director Mr. John Kolph, the Kampala-Uganda Country office especially the Country Manager Mrs. Elizabeth Ddungu, for the moral and technical guidance rendered.

To the members of the network, many thanks for the active participation in all activities of the Network and other related events that were geared towards supporting children / youths.

The Political leadership both at Jinja Municipal Council and District levels and all other levels, thanks for the political support and conducive environment exhibited to the Network. Thanks go especially to the office of the RDC Jinja District, Vice- Chairperson LC.V Jinja District and the technical officers especially the office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Department of Education both at Municipal and District levels, for the support rendered during implementation of the IBAPE Project and Quarterly Advocacy Meetings formerly known as NGO/Security meetings, Jinja Central Police (CFPU); for the support rendered during trainings, field trips, outreaches and arrest of child abusers, the office of Probation and Social Welfare and Community Development, for the careful and continued management of referrals of children and babies.

The media fraternity; both print and electronic, for the timely publication of child related matters which increased awareness about issues of young people (children / youths) within the general public in Busoga Sub-region and in the entire country.

Last but not least, members of staff, volunteers and Student Interns for the timely implementation of activities and the positive change thereon created. Above all, the Almighty God without whose hand of providence, the Network would have found it increasingly hard to register the successes it did in 2015.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

In 2015, the organization made scores on her strategic objectives as highlighted on in the proceeding sections. Outstandingly, it made changes on the face of Primary Education in Jinja District through construction of teacher houses and pupils' classrooms.

The report is presented into sections; Executive Summary / Message from the CEO, NEMACY-UGANDA at background level, NEMACY-UGANDA at Governance and Management level, NEMACY-UGANDA at Program and Activity level versus strategic objectives, Finances, General Challenges, Future plans, Recommendations and Conclusion.

The year 2015 was not void of some challenges like in the previous years. But because of the strong commitment from the staff members / volunteers, Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, Local stakeholders / partners, Strong membership and most importantly the financial support from Terre Des Hommes Netherlands and Development partners of members of the Network, the Network managed to move closer to the realization of her Strategic objectives, Mission and Vision.

In 2015 NEMACY-UGANDA, run Programs / Projects on; child protection, rehabilitation, and Education as highlighted ahead in the report.

1.0 NEMACY –UGANDA AT BACKGROUND LEVEL [WHO IS NEMACY-UGANDA]

NEMACY-UGANDA formerly known as JINNET, is a membership organization consisting of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Child Rights Advocates (CRAs) and with close formal Partnerships with Government Departments e.g. Child and Family Protection Unit of Jinja Central Police, Probation and Social Welfare office and Community Development offices. It was founded in 2001 by Rev Fr Kees Groenwoud, Dr. Tim Malcomson, Mr. Ben Kulaba, Mr. Jimmy Obbo Ivans and Mr. Everest Maraka among others. To harmonize the different interventions for promoting Children / Youths welfare by Civil Society Organizations in Jinja District and Jinja Municipal Authorities. NEMACY-UGANDA currently has 31 members whose core mandate is promoting the welfare of children / youths.

NEMACY-UGANDA **envisions** a society that respects the rights of young people and supports them to achieve their full potential and **exists** to coordinate interventions of members to deliver services to marginalized children and youths through; Research, Advocacy and Capacity enhancement.

1.1 Strategic objectives of NEMACY -UGANDA

- ✚ To strengthen capacity of members to effectively provide services to vulnerable children and youth groups.
- ✚ To empower youth groups with economic resources to reduce household poverty.
- ✚ To conduct research initiatives, collect and disseminate information pertinent to children and youths rights issues.
- ✚ To influence policy making processes to be responsive to the needs of children and youths.
- ✚ To strengthen NEMACY-UGANDA's organizational capacity to effectively and efficiently achieve her mandate.

1.2 Strong Points of NEMACY –UGANDA

- The Network has; a well informed Strategic Plan running for 2011/12 – 2015 /2016, a Strong staff consisting of persons that have undertaken trainings in project planning and management, monitoring and evaluation, human resource management, child protection, among others and with vast experience in child related matters. Besides, it has a functional Executive Committee and a Board of Trustees with wealth of knowledge and counsel in Project design, implementation and management, and children issues as well. All those management levels offer checks and balances for smooth and healthy implementation of projects.
- Availability of a physical address hosting both the Secretariat offices and the Rehabilitation Centre (Kaluba Road, Plots; 7, 9, 11 & 13 –Mpumudde), Internal

control systems e.g. Policies on Finance, Child protection, Monitoring & Evaluations systems among many others.

- Availability of a Resource Centre equipped with a wide scope of information on issues of children and other areas. This as well enhances research activities into child related matters.
- The Network has a Rehabilitation centre for Children who are found on Street unaccompanied, exploited and other categories of vulnerable children.
- The high levels of Organization Visibility earned through running of the Radio program, monthly online newsletters and the annual newsletter called “The Voice”; these are strong tools that enhance information sharing and dissemination for purposes of advocacy. Specifically the radio program yielded overwhelming demand for NEMACY-UGANDA services far beyond Jinja District and as well increased her visibility as established through her Child Helpline (0776-131414 / 0754-131414) and field visits.
- A strong and physical presence / representation in Busoga Sub-region through her members who are presently 31 which include; NGOs, CBOs, CRAs, Individual Member and Government Departments. It is through the members and other partners that the network was able to produce the advocacy and networking interventions for exploited children. The members of the Network include; Busoga Youth Development Support Association (BUYODESA), Support and Love Via Education-International (SALVE International), Phoebe Education Fund for AIDS Orphans and Vulnerable Children (PEFO), African Network for Prevention and Protection of Children against Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) Jinja branch, Child Restoration Outreach (CRO) Jinja, Adolescent Development Support Network (ADSN), Jinja Area Communities Federation (JIACOFE) an affiliate of Child Fund International, Foundation for Child Empowerment and Advocacy (FOCEA), Women Rights Initiative (WORI), Emmanuella Centre for Children with Disabilities, Kimasa Community Initiative (KCI), TOFTA Education Trust, Uganda Parents of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (UPIDI) Jinja branch, Children of Grace (COG), Health Child, Chain of Love Support Organization, Office of the Community Development Officer-JMC, Office of the Resident District Commissioner, Office of the Child and Family Protection Unit-CPS Jinja, Office of the Probation and Social Welfare, Office of the Deputy Mayor-JMC, Jinja Municipal Councilors, Child Rights Advocates-Mpumudde-Kimaka, Walukuba-Masese & Jinja Central Divisions, Office of the Vice Chairperson LC V, Human Rights and Environment Concerns Activists Organization – HURECA, Child Friendly Organization (CFO)- Busedde and Anti Domestic Coalition (ADOVIC).

2.0 NEMACY-UGANDA AT GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT LEVEL

NEMACY-UGANDA is governed by an Annual General assembly composed of members of the Network, has a Board of Trustees that plays a mediatory role and holding in trust the network's property and it's composed of; Mr. Jimmy Obbo Ivans, Mr. Ben Kulaba, Rev Fr Kees Groenwoud, Mr. Everest Maraka and Mr. Tim Malcolm, has an Executive committee / Board that provides the Network with the strategic direction, it consists of eight (8) members who included the following before the elections held in December 2015; Mr. Everest Maraka - Chairperson, Ms. Rose Kigere- Vice chairperson, Mrs. Josephine Okello -Treasurer, Mr. Kenneth Massa – Publicity Secretary, Mr. Patrick Balikweya, Mr. Godfrey Muzusa and Mr. Kent Kitimbo as committee members and the Head of the secretariat [Chief Executive Officer] as the General Secretary. After the elections the Executive Committee composed of; Mr. Everest Maraka- Chairperson, Ms Rose Kigere- Vice chairperson, Mr. Kenneth Massa -Treasurer, Mr. Patrick Balikweya- Publicity Secretary, Mr. Mike Asiya & Ms. Sarah Nsaja as committee members plus the Head of the secretariat [Chief Executive Officer] as the General Secretary

The operations of the secretariat were made possible in 2015 by a team of nine (9) people; Mr. Willy Felix Ngobi- The Team Leader (CEO), Ms. Patricia Mukoda, Program Officer Research, Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr. Peter Muwanga –Accountant, Ms. Racheal Nangobi – Program Officer Psychosocial support, Pastor. Paul Batambuze, Program Officer IBAPE, Ms Betty Omesse Alwido- Cashier / Administrative Assistant, Ms Joan Nekesa House mother NEMACY-UGANDA Rehabilitation Centre, Ms Susan Keddie Winnie Assistant House Mother, and one Volunteer Mr. Emmanuel Mutebe.

3.0 NEMACY-UGANDA AT PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY LEVEL [WHAT WAS DONE IN 2015] VERSUS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen capacity of members to effectively provide services to vulnerable children and youth groups.
2. To empower youth groups with economic resources to reduce household poverty.
3. To conduct research initiatives, collect and disseminate information pertinent to children and youths rights issues.
4. To influence policy making processes to be responsive to the needs of children and youths.
5. To strengthen NEMACY-UGANDA's organizational capacity to effectively and efficiently achieve her mandate.

The aforementioned strategic objectives of the Network were scored upon as summarized ahead under the Child Protection, Improving Access to Basic Primary Education and Rehabilitation Project as detailed ahead. And the Projects of the members of the Network

e.g. Grannies, Direct Education support, Street Children Rehabilitation, Micro-Credit and Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs).

Strategic objective / Result One:

Capacities of members to effectively provide services to vulnerable children and youth groups strengthened.

- 1.1 **The Resource Centre.** It was equipped with National News papers i.e. New vision and Daily Monitor, latest literature and Researches on children. This was aimed at enabling members of the Network and other stakeholders to have up to date information on issues of children around the Country and beyond. On a monthly basis twenty two (22) clients, (13 female: 9 male), used the resource centre for the period January- December 2015. However the number of resource centre users declined compared to past years as a result of change of office location from Jinja Town to Mpumudde where few people had noticed the availability of the Resource centre facility. Nonetheless marketing of the facility was done and gradually numbers of its users' are picking up. And interestingly some are asking for internet services because in Mpumudde they are not readily available, hence management is fundraising for possibilities of installing Internet services in the Resource Centre.
- 1.2 **News magazine.** The sixth edition of the Voice 2015, a news magazine used for advocacy purposes and enhancing members' capacities in mounting advocacy on child concerns was compiled, produced and circulated among partners and other stakeholders. This is one of the advocacy tools that the Network uses to make the plight of children / youths in Jinja – Busoga and beyond publicly known to various stakeholders and as such action is devised. The News magazine was exploited by all members of the Network to share about their activities and projects plus make gains in matters of advocacy for a child.
- 1.3 **Radio meetings.** Twelve (12) monthly and four (4) Quarterly radio planning meetings were held. Members of the network used the meetings to enrich their knowledge on radio programming and select topical issues for discussion on air of the Radio partner Basoga Baino BABA 87.7 Fm. The radio meetings caused hosting of re-known child rights advocates e.g. Mr. Martin Kiiza Secretary General of National Council for Children and guaranteed quality of whatever was discussed on air. It is estimated basing on the callers in, sms and feedback in community that the Network reached through radio campaigns (talk shows) over 1,000,000 people with child rights messages in 2015.
- 1.4 **Inspection of Schools.** The network partnered with the Inspection Departments at Jinja Municipal Council and Jinja District and over 80% of the UPE Schools in the two administrative units were inspected. The head teachers of the schools reported that the Inspections were more of supportive instead of supervisory hence resulting in improving on the gaps identified by the Inspectors.
- 1.5 **NEMACY UGANDA** partnered with **Jinja District Local Government** and **Jinja Municipal Council** and had four (4) teachers' houses; two in one design and two classroom blocks constructed in five primary schools under UPE in Jinja District. Under the partnership, 16 target schools had their learning environment changed and made attractive. Through installation of play equipment for children, hand washing facilities at VIP Latrines,

First Aid Boxes equipped with drugs and 200 teachers undertaken through refresher trainings. As a consequent of the changes the network had made in schools, besides improving pupil retention & passing and teacher attendance, Jinja District Local Government felt challenged and it also embarked on construction, whereby it constructed some VIP Latrines in 14 Schools and Teachers house in three schools.

Strategic objective / Result two.

Youth groups empowered with economic resources to reduce household poverty.

- 2.1 Over 200 Young people were supported with financial capital to set up small businesses. This was made possible through two of the Network members i.e. Salve International and WORL. Where young people were supported through the “Village Savings Groups’ and linked to Micro- Finance Support Centre of Uganda to access small credit.
- 2.2 600 young people in three Sub-counties of Mafubira, Buwenge Rural and Butagaya were trained through community field trips in child protection, book keeping, financial management and Entrepreneurship skills. About 60% of the trained young people have set up small businesses.

Strategic Objective / Result Three.

Research initiatives conducted and information pertinent to children and youths rights issues disseminated.

- 3.1 **Research.** The network through her member Salve International conducted a Research into Street Child Challenge in Jinja. The Research investigated the push, pull and retainer factors that play in the life styles of children on street popularly known as ‘Street Children’. The Study revealed that some of the children remain trapped on the streets because of the handouts that they receive from people while on streets e.g. cloths, money and other gifts in appreciation for example of assisting someone to dump garbage, mop a shop among others. The findings have aided the Network to address the challenge of Street Children in Jinja with a scientific understanding of it and to some extent it’s being managed to reasonable success.
- 3.2 **Feeding of Pupils in UPE Schools** while at School. The Network investigated the magnitude of the problem of children not feeding while at school. The findings indicated that over 50% of the pupils in the UPE schools in Jinja District go without a meal while at school. And the few that have a meal it is a cup of porridge with and sometimes without sugar. The findings show that parents still think that it’s Government’s role to feed the pupils while at School. The second biggest challenge is food insecurity in many homes because most of the land is used to grow sugar canes. Therefore even if parents wanted to give food to their pupils while at school the food is not enough in the homes. The shocking findings pushed the Network to begin mobilizing parents towards provision of midday meals to pupils while at school and sparing some reasonable piece of land for food production.

Strategic Objective / Result Four.

Policy making processes influenced to be responsive to the needs of children and youths.

- 4.1 Quarterly Advocacy meetings formerly known as (NGO / Security meetings).The Network organized and held Quarterly advocacy meetings in partnership with Jinja District Local Government and Jinja Municipal Council. Four (4) meetings were held and they were chaired by the RDC Jinja Mr. Richard Gulume and the Deputy RDC Mr. Eric Sakwa. The meetings were attended by all NGOs / CBOs in Jinja that address concerns of children, Jinja Central Police (Child and Family Protection Unit), Probation and Social Welfare Office, Community Development and Education Department of Jinja District and Jinja Municipal Council Local Governments. The meetings resulted into Jinja Central Police checking every vehicle to crack down on the vice of child trafficking which was reported to be increasing in Jinja District, stopping of boda-boda cyclists to carry many children on motorcycles during reporting to school in mornings, and many other outcomes.
- 4.2 **Commemoration of International Days.** The network partnered with Jinja District Local Government to commemorate International Children Days e.g. Day of African Child, World Aids Day, World Day Against Child Labour among others. The Network used the events to facilitate children to present pressing issues to policy makers. As a result the Local Government of Jinja increased her Budget allocations to issues of children. And during every Budgeting process the Network is always invited to take.
- 4.3 The network partnered with select Primary Schools to influence school policies and behavior of school management and pupils by designing school compounds with a number of messages as seen in photo below. The messages are reported to be influencing behavior of Teachers especially to desist from resorting to corporal punishment when disciplining pupils. Additionally the network organized children forums, Debates and Dialogues which were used to lobby Government on issues that affect pupils in schools e.g. late release of UPE funds. Over 400 pupils attended the forums, dialogues and debates and made many recommendations. Some of the recommendations the network shared with the area members of parliament for an action from Parliamentary level.



School Compound Talking Post before being installed on the School compounds

- 4.4 **Community Field fields.** To influence policies in communities right from village up to Sub county level, to be responsive to the concerns of children, the Network partnered with Police and other stakeholders to conduct field trips. Four field trips which attracted about 600 people were conducted (See a photo of one of the field trips below). The trips were used to sensitize masses to push for child friendly policies at village, sub county and district level. As a result some villages made resolutions to contribute ten (10) Kgs of maize towards feeding of pupils in schools and others pay money equivalent to 10Kgs of maize.



**Mr. Abdulhim Mpanuka Community Policy Liaison In-charge
Jinja Central Police Facilitating a field Trip**

- 4.5 The organization held two press conferences to bring to the attention of different policy makers the plight of child abuse as received on her child helpline(+256 776 131414 / +256 754 1314141) from January to December, 2015. The press conferences were attended by all the local radio stations in Jinja Town, New vision and Daily monitor news paper journalists, leaders in the District e.g. the Resident District Commissioner Mr. Richard Gulume, the Jinja District LC.V. Vice Chairperson Mr. Paul Balidawa among others. The policy makers present appealed to offenders of child rights to stop and cautioned anybody denying a child a right to education and harboring intentions of marrying off girls under 18 years to desist from the practice

Strategic objective / Result Five

NEMACY-UGANDA's organizational capacity strengthened to effectively and efficiently achieve her mandate.

- 5.1 The network held a number of meetings to ensure her capacities are in line with realizing the set strategic plan. The meetings included; staff weekly planning and assessment meetings, staff Bi-Quarterly meetings, Executive Committee Meetings and Annual General Meetings. The meetings resulted into Development of Projects and action plans of implementation, drafting and passing of policies e.g. the Human Resource Policy, Board Manual and others, Vetting and approving of new members in the Network, appointing of Auditors and Auditing of Network's books of accounts.

4.0 PROJECT: NEMACY UGANDA REHABILITATION CENTRE

NEMACY-Uganda has a Rehabilitation centre known as NEMACY-UGANDA Rehabilitation Centre located on plots; 7, 9, 11 and 13 Kaluba Road Mpumudde Division, Jinja Municipal Council - Jinja District. It offers rehabilitation services to former children on street, abandoned children and children abused in various ways e.g. defiled. The centre rehabilitates children for a period of at least three months thereafter NEMACY's partners in rehabilitation do home tracing and eventually reintegrate children with their parents – communities.

4.1 Activities implemented and Achievements

120 children; 95 Boys and 25 Girls were sheltered at the Centre from January to December 2015. 96 children; 80 Boys and 16 Girls were reintegrated with their families and majority resumed school. While 10 children all boys dropped out. By 31st December 2015, 14 Children; 11boys and 4Girls were still under rehabilitation. The successes made were all possible out of the memorandum of understanding the network has with her members like CRO-Jinja, SALVE International, ANPPCAN – Jinja, Child &Family Protection Unit of Jinja Central Police and, Probation and Social Welfare Office of Jinja District, to identify, refer, rehabilitate, resettle / reintegrate children found on streets, abused and other categories of vulnerable children.

5.0 FINANCES

Here below is a summary of the financial inflow to the Network both at Secretariat level and within the members.

Income		Source (Development Partner)	Program / Project
Secretariat	UGX.143,643,672	Terres des hommes Netherlands	Child protection
	Secretariat UGX. 220,216,533	Terres des hommes Netherlands	Improving Access to Basic primary Education
	UGX. 2,501,000	Other Partner contributions	Partner contribution expense
Members of the Network	Ugx2.5 Billion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Louis Foundation • Oak Foundation • Ford Foundation • Individual American Business people. • Street Child Africa • Edukans 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child protection 2. Education 3. Rehabilitation 4. Early Child Development 5. Micro- Credit 6. Housing for Grannies
Grand Total	2.863,860,205 Billion		

6.0 GENERAL CHALLENGES

- ❖ The narrowing space for accessing resources especially financial to fully operationalise the Annual plans and Budgets and the Strategic Plans, amidst overwhelming demand for NEMACY-UGANDA interventions far beyond Jinja District - Busoga Region continued to be a challenge to the Network.
- ❖ The ever increasing child abuse incidences within homes, communities e.g. markets.
- ❖ Court delays in concluding child abuse related cases which reach the courts of law coupled with incomplete operationalization of Children's Courts in all the major towns / Districts of Uganda.

7.0 GENERAL FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✚ Aggressive fundraising both locally and internationally so as implement the 2011/12-2015/16 strategic plan.
- ✚ NEMACY-UGANDA scaling up her activity implementation to cover all the Districts in Busoga and beyond.
- ✚ Implementing the structural development plan which shall host both the Secretariat offices and Rehabilitation activities.
- ✚ Continuous lobbying of Government to fully operationalize Children Courts up to Sub-County Level, and for the Development partners to support this cause.

8.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

NEMACY -UGANDA through her committed and competent Staff, Boards, Member organizations and Government departments, Development Partners and other stakeholders managed to put her objectives to another level. In a special way lots of thanks go to the Development partners, staff, Boards, Stakeholders and Beneficiaries, and above all God /Allah.