PHILOMERA HOPE FOUNDATION

2020 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT
Empowering Communities
Youth in Uganda are the youngest population in the world, with 77% of its population being under 25 years of age. There are 7,310,386 youth from the ages of 15-24 years of age living in Uganda today. 54.3% are females and 55.1% are males.

The Above Statistics Point To The Urgent Need To Focus On A Youth Led Development Approach. Young People Have Their Lives Before Them. They Are Entitled To Gain The Right Skills, Knowledge, And Opportunities To Build A Stable Future For Themselves, Their Communities, And Their Countries.

The year 2020 has been an especially difficult one for the majority of people and one that has dealt a severe blow to the health and livelihood for many people across the globe. A new virus, covid-19, has seized the world’s attention and further jeopardized their health and well-being. Vital services have been disrupted in many countries including Uganda but importantly the fight against HIV/AIDS. The covid-19 pandemic has almost certainly stalled the global HIV response and led to the reversal of many critical gains.

JOSEPH KAYIIIRA
TEAM LEADER
PHILOMERA HOPE CENTER FOUNDATION
SUMMARY

The present report outlines the main activities and projects carried out by the PHF from January to December 2020. The activities were developed and implemented in compliance with PHF Strategic approved Plan for 2018-2023.

Activities were chosen for evaluation during the reporting period to represent the diversity of PHF programming.
2020 NUMBERS AND CIRCUMSTANCES

- We work with over 21 volunteers and 7 interns
- Social media reach: Over 10,000 digital reach
- Youths directly impacted so far: Over 5,000 digital reach
- Newsletter reach: Over 1,500 subscribers monthly
- Total combined database: Over 25k

We work with over 150 individuals and +10 organization members internationally and locally who work in diverse thematic areas.
INTRODUCTION

Philomera Hope Center Foundation is a youth led and youth serving organization operating in Uganda. Since its inception in 2012, we have focused on youth empowerment programs that include Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Livelihood support, Water Sanitation and Hygiene, Education support/Literacy and Disability Inclusion.

PHF is a youth led organization that emphasizes the empowerment of girls. The topic of youth is growing in importance in African policies and is a key focus of The PHF and its partners. We believe that investing in youth is a precondition for accelerated inclusive growth and sustainable development. In accordance with our aspiration to involve young people actively in processes affecting their livelihoods and future prospects, we ensure a strengthened and meaningful inclusion of Youth.

“PHF’s work is underpinned by a set of Principles; Building a more relevant, sustainable, and effective enabling environment for education and work systems for young people, that recognize their rights and will; Involving young people at all levels in decision-making processes that will affect their lives; and partnering with young people to build a better, more resilient world for all generations.”
Philomera Hope Center Foundation was founded in February 2012 by a group of young people, then University students from Makerere University Kampala who traced their roots from Ssese Islands present day Kalangala island district in Victoria. The group was made up of energetic young people/ students who were passionate about public health and wellbeing of their peers in different communities.

The organization started as a weekend outreach program (on volunteer basis) by students from University visiting different schools in and out of the island talking to their peers about different life changing skills, sharing knowledge and information about their sexual reproductive health and rights and the importance of staying and finishing school. This was all aimed in attempt to fully equip these fellow young people in schools and communities with
knowledge and information to be in position to make informed choices and decisions about their lives, health and bodies to finally maximize their full potential and attain the best future that they were all yelling for!

Philomera Hope Center Foundation was later in March 2013 registered as a Community Based organization in Kalangala island district and then as a company limited by guarantee in December 2013 to be in position to operate on a regional (central region) level since the founder members discovered that what affected young people in Kalangala affected many others in the region.

Philomera Hope Center Foundation Uganda (PHF) is a youth led non-profit organization focused on youth empowerment programs with an emphasis on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention and livelihood support activities.

We also fundamentally focus on changing social norms and values that limit access to SRHR services and information through designing effective communication strategies and campaigns to create awareness and mitigate sexual health risks among the young people today.

We consist of a dynamic, passionate and committed young team, who believe in the power, potential and future of young people. PHF’s strength further lies in the elaborate network of partners that are inclusive key players in the field of SRHR as well as volunteers.

Our program interventions basically emphasize on inclusiveness and non-discrimination/stigma with the aim of bringing forth and raising voices of young key population groups to be heard and integrated in programs and decision making that matters to their health and well-being. We specifically emphasize on building the knowledge base of adolescent girls and young women from vulnerable populations about their sexual reproductive health needs and
gender equality issues in a bid to help them make right and informed choices about their health and positively influence their peers.

Such engagements are aimed at empowering communities and putting them at the fore front of leading and eliminating barriers that stand in the way of women and girls and deter them from fulfilling and meeting their full potential.

Through our work, we address the need to empower and build capacities of young people to lead on a youth led advocacy and accountability for increased scale up of quality sexual reproductive health and rights including access to SRHR information and youth friendly services; youth corners and better life changing opportunities.

Through community dialogues, we promote gender equity and equality through advocacy and promotion of respect for women and girl rights, prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and elimination of all forms of teenage pregnancies and child marriages.
PHILOMERA HOPE CENTER FOUNDATION TODAY

While active on a number of cross-cutting issues, our six priority areas are:

- Sexual And Reproductive Health And Rights;
- Education and Vocational Skills;
- Livelihood support
- Water sanitation and Hygiene (WASH);
- Leadership and Mentorship
- Disability inclusion
These themes provide an organizing structure that underpins the development and implementation of our initiatives, which prioritize reducing youth deprivation and socio-economic empowerment. At the heart of our work lies the notion of partnership with wide-ranging actors, including Governments, international organizations, the United Nations, foundations, youth organizations, and grassroots civil society. This helps multiply and amplify our impact and relevance.

PHF has increasingly mainstreamed its activities and strengthened its partnerships with other organizations. We believe that partnership with and trusting young people to participate and lead response and rebuilding efforts by providing adequate resourcing and support to strengthen their capacities and the impact of their work is particularly key to responding to Covid-19. It also pursues its mission by serving as a platform for dialogue and cooperation by empowering and connecting youth organizations with local authorities, the private sector, research, and higher education institutions, and other international organizations.

As in previous years, PHF continues to occupy a unique place within the youth development ecosystem. It is a key platform in the larger structure of international development architecture that actively works with governments as well as international and regional organizations, media, youth, faith-based organizations, and other civil society representatives.

The present report is Seventh PHF’s annual reports to its members, partners, and advisory board. It highlights the main activities during the past year (January to December 2020).
INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PHF is continually becoming a formidable platform for youth empowerment in Uganda. Young people make up the bulk of Uganda’s total population with an estimated 75% of the country’s population below the age of 35. From a demographic point of view, this calls for a paradigm shift towards the recognition and support of the youth to harness their potential to foster community resilience, propose innovative solutions, drive social progress, youth empowerment and inspire transformative change. Young people are a tremendous and essential asset worth investing in. We hope to open the door to an unparalleled multiplier effect as our message spreads.

PHF envisions being a convening platform that brings young professionals together to tackle global issues and showcase the impact they are making in their communities.

Through its convening power, it continues to assemble young people, international organizations, media, youth networks and organizations, faith-based organizations, governments, lawmakers, local authorities, civil society organizations, and individuals committed to establishing pathways to tackle the many specific issues facing our youth.
PARTNERSHIPS

Since its inception, PHF has recognized that it could not fulfill its mandate alone. Partnerships have continued to be the cornerstone of its strategy. Under the leadership of the Executive Director,

PHF has expanded its network of relationships with international organizations, government departments, regional and subregional organizations, and other actors. Since 2013, PHF has signed 10 memorandums of understanding with academic institutions, think tanks, foundations, and international organizations to amplify the impact of its work. During the reporting period, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the KATHRYN MCQUADE FOUNDATION for the Girls’ Empowerment and Innovation village Project to support vulnerable adolescent girls and young women in Kalangala district community. The purpose of this partnership is to contribute to enhanced economic empowerment within identified beneficiaries who are mainly victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), young females living with HIV, teenage mothers, school drop-outs and former sex workers.

This program focuses on the technical and vocational education with skills acquisition in tailoring/fashion and design, computer literacy, bakery,

The other project component deals with Menstrual hygiene management to young adolescent girls through provision of reusable sanitary towels and water harvesting tanks and hand washing facilities.

Water Harvesting Tanks At Kasekulo Primary School
PHF worked with **DKT INTERNATIONAL & PEPSI Uganda** to commemorate the **WORLD AIDS DAY** in Mubende in central Uganda, a district that seems to be doing badly in terms of HIV prevalence. COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a severe blow to the health and livelihood for many people across the globe including Ugandans. A new virus, COVID-19, has seized the world’s attention and further jeopardized their health and well-being. Vital services have been disrupted in many countries including Uganda but importantly the fight against HIV/AIDS. The COVID-19 pandemic has almost certainly stalled the global HIV response and led to the reversal of many critical gains.

As a youth serving organization Philomera Hope Center Foundation Uganda is well placed to respond to the urgent need to fight against the HIV/AIDS scourge especially among the young people and key populations.

Mubende district in particular is made up 13 subcounties, 2 town councils and 3 municipals divisions with a total population of 554,800 persons of which 281,500 are males and 273,300 females. The district has 15 ART sites and an HIV prevalence rate of 7.4%

During this years’ commemoration the following activities were held;
- Flash mob through Mubende town,
- Testimonies from Person Living With HIV
- Condom distribution
- Speeches from local authorities
- Candle Lighting
EMERGING ISSUES IN THE FIGHT OF HIV

There are glimmers of hope and progress, as momentum on HIV prevention for adolescent girls and young women have been accelerating in key affected districts.

However, as highlighted out by the District health education officer and HIV focal person Mr. Kawuma Charles in Mubende district and the region as a whole much remains to be done.

To achieve the global AIDS targets by 2030, ensuring rights to health and protection for young key populations are non-negotiable.

He pointed out these challenges as impending the fight against HIV in the district;
Poor access to preventive services and kits such as condoms and the low knowledge of sexual and reproductive health especially among young people and key populations.

- High population influx which over stretches the available resources.
- The long distances that have to be travelled to access HIV services

Other partnerships were signed by Crown Beverages, LaTO milk, Joint medical stores.

**THEORY OF CHANGE**

PHF worked to build a practical theory to underpin its ambitious community transformation efforts.

This Theory of Change is centered on organizational performance improvement as an approach to building the capacity of PHF that zeros in on achieving our intended outcomes. We recognize that high performing youth-led and youth-serving organizations like ourselves need to be exceptional in four domains: Efficiency, effectiveness, relevancy, and sustainability.

PHF needed a roadmap for change more than ever. Instead of bridges, avenues, and freeways, this map illustrates destinations of progress and the routes to travel on the way to achieving progress.

The map also provides commentary about assumptions, such as the final destination, the context for the map, the processes to engage in during the journey, and the belief system that underlies the importance of traveling in a particular way. This map is our "theory of change."
PHF published a groundbreaking report titled Lockdown live: Impact of COVID-19 on Girls in Low Income Countries. To write this report, PHF and SHE’S THE FIRST

PHF joined forces to address the challenges that girls are facing due to COVID-19. The Lockdown Live series was an initiative planned to create awareness about the global situation girls in the wake of COVID-19. A series of events/webinars were carried out to address issues that have emerged across platforms as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The intention was to help find a coping mechanism for the situation as well as find solutions to emerging problems. Key focuses on strengthening meaningful engagement with the youth, amplifying their voice and actions in supporting the expansion of social services.

To build our technical capacity on various topics, our members of staff took part in various short courses and training.

Notable ones include: Elevating your brand through storytelling governance among Non-Profit-Organization among others.

The Executive Director continued his efforts to broaden the membership PHF

The Advisory Board held four virtual meetings in Kampala in March, June, September, and December 2020.

Discussions centered on the theme of partnering with young people to build a better, more resilient world for all generations.
PHF wants to ensure that young people’s knowledge and insight inform crisis response and recovery efforts at all levels; partner with and trust young people to participate and lead response and rebuilding efforts, providing adequate resourcing and support to strengthen their capacities and the impact of their work; invest in youth-led initiatives that are the forefront of responding to Covid-19 and particularly those organizations that provide support to the most marginalized and vulnerable youth, and recognize the negative impact Covid-19 has on young people’s wellbeing and mental health and provide ongoing psychosocial support to young people through formal interventions and programmes.

**STRENGTHENING LINKS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

Philomera Hope Center Foundation continued to engage with departments and entities within the United Nations system, in particular with UNICEF and individual funders.

During the reporting period, we took part in or organized events such as International Youth Day, International Day of Peace, Youth Excel Africa Personal World Aids Day, Day of the Girl Child, Literacy Week, World Environment Day, ECOSOC Youth Forum, Business Fights Poverty Conference, Earth Day Youth Virtual Town Hall, Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, World Youth Skills Day, International Day of Democracy among others.

**MOVING FORWARD**
During the reporting period, PHF continued to champion a collective and broad-based approach towards investing in the prospects of young people so that they can build a better, more resilient world and encourage stakeholders to work in partnership with young people.

These investments should be made in an inclusive manner and specifically target the opportunities of vulnerable youth—recognizing the unique challenges they face and ensuring that no-one is left behind. Under the leadership of the Executive Director, PHF developed its programmatic advocacy activities and outreach programme under its 7 themes set out below:

**STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS CULTURE, ARTS & SPORTS:**

Culture, Arts & Sports (CAS) can address major global challenges such as conflict prevention and resolution, social integration, prevention of violent extremism, and a key to promote cultural heritage.
CAS can contribute to socio-economic stability, sustainable development and economic growth, through cultural entrepreneurship; the culture and creative arts industry is indeed considered to be one of the fastest growing sectors of the world economy, with an estimated growth rate of 7% of the global GDP. However, the sector's potential deserves to be further harnessed, through visible initiatives that can also help connect young people to opportunities (financing, networks, and necessary skills to build their careers).

**YOUTH INCLUSION IN GOVERNANCE (ACCOUNTABILITY)**

Ensuring “a transparent, democratic and accountable environment” shall be a strategic objective of the work, which contributes “to reducing fragility, fostering political stability and effective governance, and enabling sustainable and inclusive development and growth”. The AU has developed the African Governance Architecture.

PHF has invested significantly in developing skills to be used in governance-enabling activities. Accountability initiatives already exist, from the international level (including the International Aid Transparency Initiative) to the local (with social auditing and budget reviews).

However, collaboration among stakeholders can be further enhanced. The under-representation of youth in governance, notably, is a clear challenge that wide-spread information and youth-attractive digital tools can help address.
The large proportion of youth in Uganda presents an opportunity for further action in transparency and accountability.

**EDUCATION AND SKILLS**

An investment in the human capital is an investment in the socio-economic future of our societies.

PHF aspires to provide high quality education and training systems that are efficient and that facilitate young people’s access and integration. However, youth in Uganda face high unemployment rates and difficulties transitioning into the world of work.

In light of the UN 2030 goals, SDG 4, and international commitments, relevant stakeholders must be assisted in providing quality education to equip youth with skills and competencies to take on future challenges and opportunities in society: “21st-century skills”.

Innovative schooling systems, under different forms, have been shown to improve student success, active citizenship, and transversal skills, needed for the future job market.

Access to quality education and the opportunity to develop skills and competencies vital to prepare youth for the future.
There are good examples of multi-stakeholder collaborations in creating innovative learning environments (e.g. ESTEM, VET, and Global Education). Coordination and dissemination of these efforts in the country are necessary.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Soil degradation and unsustainable land/water management are key causes and impacts of climate change in Africa. The Great Green Wall initiative, launched in 2007, is the AU's flagship initiative to slow the expansion of the Sahara Desert, address land degradation, boost food security, and to support the transformational resilience of communities to adapt to climate change.

However, coordination between the various projects composing the Great Green Wall should be further improved.

A coherent mapping can help further develop the GGW, while enhancing support for agroforestry can represent additional incentives for youth to stay in rural areas and engage in activities promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. Agroforestry has proven suitable to mitigate the consequences of climate change and can provide livelihood opportunities for youth in the region.
BUSINESS, JOB CREATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

There are gaps in support services for young entrepreneurs, in the knowledge of and access to current flagship initiatives.

Sub-Saharan Africa will need to create 18 million new jobs a year by 2035, while currently only 3 million are annually created. This issue is a crucial priority for PHF. In this endeavor of job creation, young people are uniquely positioned to stimulate innovation and create social capital, especially in key sectors such as agribusiness and renewable energy.

Youth must be empowered to participate in shaping a shared future and economy, working closely in partnership with agribusiness and renewable energy.
There are 1.2 billion adolescents (10-19 years old) worldwide today and this number will rise through 2050. Nearly nine out of ten adolescents live in low- and middle-income countries. The health and well-being of adolescents now and in their adult lives greatly depend on key education opportunities and access to quality health services that help them stay healthy, empowered, embracing gender equality norms and demanding rights.

While the majority of adolescent health issues are preventable or treatable, adolescents face multiple barriers in accessing the knowledge, information, and health care they need. The provision of appropriately tailored service and health care is weak or absent for adolescents and understanding among service providers of their specific needs is limited.

These challenges can be exacerbated by age, sex, ethnicity, religion, disability, location, wealth, marital status, sexual orientation and gender identity, migratory status, and other characteristics.

Adolescents have failed to experience a reduction in mortality seen by younger children. While under-five deaths halved during the Millennium Development Goal period, progress in adolescent mortality has stalled. Globally, adolescents carry 11 percent of the global disease burden, and each year there are more than 1.1 million adolescent deaths.
**MEMBER PROGRAMMING**

As recommended in the strategic plan for 2018-2023, members and beneficiaries of PHF programmed in the areas of youth, governance, peace, entrepreneurship, skills, and cross-sector initiatives should be brought together into one network to “cross-pollinate”, develop joint projects and maximize the impact of our work aimed at empowering young people.

To achieve this, PHF could benefit from: Having a more robust database, allowing us to store essential information about their community, including contact details, communication preferences, and interests, membership status, and history of engagement with the organization.

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"The objective of PHF is To Create A Robust Digital Presence And Community. This includes getting more people to know about the organization, growing and managing memberships, and leading advocacy actions for their 8 programs."

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**OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS**

PHF will build a community engagement platform that includes three core components: 1) A content management system, to build an action-oriented website that integrates seamlessly with our people database. The system has native features for event management, membership management, online payments, surveys, our transformational training and signature leadership programs. The impact of this Center will be to consolidate PHF’s position as a key convener and a leading youth empowerment organization within Uganda and Africa.
This in itself would send a powerful message that ‘young people are ready to partner in shaping Uganda’s future’. This signature Center will allow us to petitions, collecting feedback, logged-in-only and/or members-only content, and more.

2) A connected people database: Every action taken by our supporters / members online will sync seamlessly into our secure database. We will be able to store a large variety of information on the profiles of each individual, and create paths of engagement to move them into action.

3) Communications tools, tightly integrated with our database. This means we can easily segment our database according to criteria like membership status, geography, event RSVP status, and hundreds of other data points, then email that group. And, the email product enables you to send hyper personalized email that inserts dynamic content based on PHF’s relationship with the member.

The girl’s empowerment and innovations village with support from Kathryn Mcquade Foundation.

Our success in creating a new, powerful reality for Uganda’s girls is prompting us to seek a suitable, permanent facility from which to continue our work. The new facility will serve as a regional hub across the Uganda and bring greater efficiency and effectiveness in the way we manage our transformational training and signature leadership programs.

The impact of this Center will be to consolidate PHF’s position as a key convener and a leading youth empowerment organization within Uganda and Africa.
This in itself would send a powerful message that ‘young people are ready to partner in shaping Uganda’s future’. This signature Center will allow us to invest in the next generation of Uganda’s young female entrepreneurs.

The need to invest in capacity building and expansion of skill sets so that program participants are strong, result-oriented leaders is clear. The need also comes out of statistics which show that nearly one in three Ugandans are between the ages of 10 and 24, and approximately 65% of Uganda’s total population is below the age of 35.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

For the 2020 budgetary year, actual expenditures were kept at USD 75,000. The expenditure is mainly to create Partnerships and sustain Operations (6%), implement PHF Mission-related Activities (90%), and for Leadership Development and Advocacy (4%).

PHF’s Main sources of funding include foundations, corporates, institutions, investments. Other sources of funds include Individual donations, gifts, and membership fees subscriptions.

**STAFFING**

Fiscal prudence and cash flow issues demand that PHF maintains budget discipline and seek cost savings wherever possible. 5 staff members joined PHF during the reporting period to serve in the Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation, Business Development, Project Management, and Strategic Partnerships and Fundraising departments to strengthen PHF’s capacity to successfully implement new projects particularly from institutions and corporations. Other than that, we had 7 interns and 25 volunteers.
PARTNER WITH US

Corporate, institutional, and foundation partners can play a constructive role in finding collective solutions for some of the problems tackled by PHF either in a specific region or on a specific topic.

MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO PHILOMERA HOPE FOUNDATION

Support ongoing initiatives around Uganda. It’s an easy process and your support will make a difference. You can start a grassroots fundraising initiative too.

COMMIT TO HOSTING PHILOMERA HOPE FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES

Support PHF work by organizing awareness campaigns and fundraising events in your communities.

SUPPORT PHF PROGRAMME OF YOUR CHOICE

PHF gives you a unique opportunity to align your business, corporate social responsibility, and sustainability priorities with major initiatives that model and advance youth-led approaches towards sustainable development, social equity, democratic governance, and economic viability.

MAKE AN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION

Support PHF with your expertise or extend resources to enable. You can also donate books and equipment.

FOLLOW PHILOMERA HOPE FOUNDATION (PHF)

Advocate, engage, and raise awareness about PHF. Follow on social media, subscribe to our newsletter, and receive updates about PHF.

For additional information, please visit: www.philomerahopeug.org
CONCLUSION

During the reporting period, the Executive Director continued his efforts to enhance the visibility of PHF, advocating for the causes consistent with the mandate of PHF. Staff continued to implement project activities, further develop existing successful projects and create new ones, in collaboration with international organizations, foundations, researchers, policymakers, private sector, NGOs and governments and civil society groups, as well as the media. The dynamic process of project development will continue with an emphasis on exchanging knowledge and ideas on how to achieve better, and more evidence-based, inclusive development policies and practices in Africa.

In 2021, PHF wants to prioritize inclusive development to make sure that more young people benefit from economic growth and development. We aim to reduce poverty and inequality, in both income and non-income dimensions.

Similarly, rising inequality within generations and the increase in evidence of its detrimental effect on social and political stability, as well as economic growth, makes inclusive development key to realizing Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 and building back better.

In line with the strategic plan for 2018-2023, PHF will continue to streamline its Secretariat activities, PHF has increasingly mainstreamed its work and continues its ongoing integration into revised organizational structures.

In particular, it will continue to explore the possibility of developing joint or mutually reinforcing capacity-building programmed and projects with other youth-serving organizations in accordance with their comparative advantages and respective mandates. That process will lead to even greater cooperation and collaboration between PHF and its allies in 2021.