



UGA-JEN-CCM-P01
Reporting Period: March – August 2017

Creative Children's Clubs - Uganda

Budget: Year 1 \$19,200 and Year 2 \$19,570 – fully funded.
(Final Year 3 begins 1 September 2018 - \$18,710 needed).

Update:

This 3-year project funds the running of Children's Clubs in Mbale, eastern Uganda, with an aim to grow to 4000 children. The funding provides a small subsidy and in-kind stipends to the Club teachers together with training, allows the teams to host meetings with parents and provide special guidance and counselling days for children and families. It also allows our implementers to reach out to the older children who have 'graduated' from the Children's Clubs but who have nothing to take its place and few positive adult role models who can assist in the difficult youth years. Finally, each Club runs a 'store' where children can 'purchase' educational and hygiene items using vouchers collected over the course of the year. This report covers the second 6-months of the first year of funding.



With the assistance from Entrust, our partners are convening 22 Children's Clubs on a weekly basis, engaging 69 teachers and over 3,500 children – this has grown from 3,000 - an amazing program to build into the youth in Uganda! Of course the reach of the Clubs is even further, involving friends and families of these children – all of whom are living in some of the poorest and most vulnerable communities in and around Mbale. A feature of the program is the Parents' Meetings. Most have never gone beyond primary school and they have received poor parenting advice, if any at all. The meetings provide, often for the first time, sound parenting advice from qualified trainers. Our partners have trained over 600 parents this year alone!

In May an Annual Meeting of church leaders saw the biggest attendance to date in support of the Children's Clubs. Our partners report they are well on track towards the goal of launching five new groups in the next three years. In 2017 two new Clubs were launched as well as a third to replace a discontinued Club.



The Project Coordinator visited each Club to carry out a whole day "guidance and counselling" event for the older children. He said, *"The Wise Choices for Life program (also supported through Entrust) provides the basis for the topics/issues – for example puberty, communication skills, sexual rights, goal-setting etc In total 1600 youths received training and we are seeing many behavioural changes. We also run Pioneer Youth Clubs which are designed especially for youth who have outgrown the Children's Clubs. Entrust support has allowed a tailored program for the first time covering topics such as mentorship and the importance of work. Many are involved in giving back to the community and in helping with the Children's Clubs themselves."*

Thank you for your support! This is a "priority project" for our partners as the outcomes are life-changing.



UGA-JEN-CCM-P01,
Report from September 2016 – February 2017

Creative Children's Clubs - Uganda

Budget: \$19,200 for Year 1 of a 3-year project.
(Year 2 begins 1 September \$19,570 needed).

Update:

This project funds the running of 21 (growing to 26) children's clubs in Mbale, eastern Uganda, currently catering for 3000 children and expected to grow to 4000 over the next few years. It follows on from a one-year project but we were so impressed that we agreed to fund a new project for a further three years. The funding provides a small subsidy and in-kind stipends to the club teachers, allows the teams to host meetings with parents and provide special guidance and counselling days on topics of relevance to the children and families.

It also allows our implementers to offer further training and development to the teachers and to reach out to the older children who have 'graduated' from the children's clubs but who have nothing to take its place and few positive adult role models who can assist in the difficult youth years. Finally, each club runs a 'store' where children can 'purchase' educational and hygiene items using vouchers collected over the course of the year.



Our partners report that they have hosted monthly teacher trainings for all 70 Children's Clubs teachers, focusing on key life skills and topics about reproductive health and hygiene. The offer of a small stipend to teachers has seen many encouraged and motivated by the support, particularly as many have no other form of salaried work. They report significant success in sessions with parents and would like to increase the number of meetings to three per year.

A pilot project with 80 of the "ex-Children's Club" members has commenced for ages 15 – 23 years as these young people are vulnerable and are looking for guidance, mentoring and friendship. They are meeting x3 times per year in school holidays and a number of children/young adults are now helping in the Clubs themselves!

A Christmas party was held at each location where children presented dramatizations and dancing and a meal was shared together and small gifts exchanged. Parents were also invited to join the festivities – what a great occasion! Children have continued to use the stores each quarter, using the credit they have earned from good behavior and attendance. They have been delighted to "purchase" school needs and other unaffordable items.



Our partners say, "The number of children's clubs has increased to 22 with over 3,000 children being reached each week. Now running for over 10 years, the project is having a significant impact on the communities and has been one of the most vital building blocks to some of the poorest communities, impacting not only the children and teachers but the families as well."

This project comes out of a deep understanding of the needs in the local community. Thank you for your support of this vital and strategic project that is reaching over 3000 children, 70 teachers and over 7000 families members! There is no greater job than training tomorrow's future.