



## ART FOR CHILDREN UGANDA

### Annual Report 2007-2008

Written by Adicho Bernard Isaac

Chief Executive officer

Art for Children Uganda

P.O. Box 66, Lira Uganda

Email: [artforchildrenug@gmail.com](mailto:artforchildrenug@gmail.com)

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## **Introduction**

Art for Children Uganda is a local community based Organization (CBO) formed in June 2006 and registered in August 2007 by a group of young motivated artists with the aimed of transforming Visual ART to improve the psychosocial well being of children and youth affected by and from war in Northern Uganda using creative means in ART by employing the use of creative art and craft, games, sports, music and drama.

### **Vision:**

Lifting Every Voice of children

### **Mission:**

To develop and promote children and youth creativity, participation in peace and reconciliation through active child and youth participation in;

- Creative sports and games to reconcile groups of children and youth.
- Creative arts and craft to reduce poverty among children and youth.
- Creating public awareness on children's concerns through printed materials, art music, dance and drama.

Art for Children Uganda is trying to reach the following results:

- Increased awareness of and support for child rights
- Increased opportunity for creative expression for children and youth
- Increased life skills and livelihood skills of children and youth

Art for Children Uganda wants to empower children and youth and support the environment of these children and youth in order to promote peaceful communities. To improve the psychosocial well being of children and youth, Art for Children Uganda use creative means like arts, sports & games, music and drama. Children learn best by hearing, seeing, and doing. Creative means focus on all three and are attractive for children and youth, is their "language". Creative activities are used to strengthen the coping mechanism of children and youth.

In 2007 the quality of intervention has increased and the scope of the type of activities has widen. As describe in 2006, this year Art for Children Uganda is now working in 25 schools in four sub county of Ogur, Aloji, Barr and Apala in Lira District. War Child Holland had funded most of our projects with the funds from UNICEF. In 2006 WCH funded our first project in Lira central Prison call life Experience, in 2007 up to date WCH had funded child right magazine, holiday's program, and offered training to the Art for Children Uganda staffs. Uganda Child Right NGO Network also funded Letter Link project. This entire project was meant to increase access to school and retention in education through creative means.

Ongoing programs are meant to increase awareness on child rights, psychosocial support to children and their parents through creative holiday's programs for school going and out of school children and creative expression through writing articles to be published in Dwon Otino magazine.

## **Program Implementation**

The general aim of the programme is to bring the divided group of children and youth together for behavioral change through creative means and to promote child rights among the communities. To reach this, Art for Children Uganda wants to make children and youth more resilient and offer an environment where they can receive support and can live together peacefully.

To teach them to be more vigorous, the children take part in a series of creative workshop session, called holiday's program. Participants include children who are in school and out of school. This includes children who have bad behaviors caused by the situation they live in camps, orphans plus being victim of child neglect. Parents and youth are also part of the holiday's program to make them share their creative with children and learn ways of supporting their children in a more positive ways.

Other activities focus at encouraging children and youth to voice out what affects them and making children aware of their rights and responsibilities in the communities. Youth were also encouraged to teach other youth not to get in conflict with the Law

Quality education is being improved by training teachers in the use of creative means in arts using local available materials to make simple learning aids.

The following programs and projects were carried out in 2007 and 2008

1. life experience with the juveniles in Lira Central Prison (WCH funded)
2. creative means for improve access and retention in education in Lira (UNICEF through WCH funded)
3. providing letter counseling to children (UCRNN funded)
4. creative holidays program to develop creativity and capability (WCH funded)

### **Location:**

Lira district

**Barr sub county;** Ober Primary School, Opem Primary School, Akalocero Primary School, Abunga Primary School, Abolet Primary School, Ayamo Primary School, Ayira Primary School and the child friendly space.

**Aloi sub county;** Alela Modern Primary School, Fatima Demonstration school, Ogengo Primary School, Alebtong Primary School, Ocabu Primary School, Aloi High Primary School, Kakira Primary School and the child friendly space

**Apala sub county;** Apala Primary School, Oteno community based Primary School, Telela Primary School, Awali Primary School, Abia Primary School, Obim Primary School, Oloro Primary School and the child friendly space

**Ogur sub county;** Akor Primary School, Agweng Primary School, Coroom Primary School, Angolocom Primary School, Wigweng Primary School, Abala Primary School and child friendly space.

**Activities:**



**1. Holidays Program:**

In order the divided group of children together, and develop creativity among children and youth, the activities have been implementation;

*Creative holiday's program*

The main aim is to bring the divided group of children together for behavioral change and to encourage out of school children to go back to school. The program is carried in a selected 5 primary schools and 4 child friendly spaces every term. The program is a form of innovative, creative and educative program with the ability to encourage out of school children to go back to school and school going stay in school. This program also helps children share their creativity, concerns with the sole purpose of promoting friendships amongst children and families.



*Teachers and youth training*

For teachers and youth to transfer skills and expand the impact of supporting children trainings are conducted for different groups. The main target groups were the teachers. They have been trained in the use of Teachers sports and games and other creative means in their lessons. The teachers were also trained how to design education materials like charts of human body, maps etc. these attractive materials draw attention of children, and make it easier for teachers to illustrate their lessons with visual materials in

fort of large groups of pupils. 25 schools were distributed with art kits. The your have also been trained how work with children using creative arts with children



## **2. Child Right Magazine:**

Production of Dwon Otino Magazine is initiated as a Child Right Magazine to give children a voice to share their views on issues that directly or indirectly affects them especially on child right and duties.

### *Training of Child reporters*

16 child reporters have been trained on how to edit, interview and write report to be published in Dwon Otino magazine this was done to strengthen and empower children to be in position to participate in what affects them from school or at homes. 4 edition of Dwon Otino have now been printed and distributed freely to 25 schools in Lira District

The trained child reporters will be involved in interviewing, collecting articles from fellow children and pre editing the articles from their schools.

The articles published in the magazine written by children with the help of the child reporters, inputs from adults and other child actors input like Raising Voices [www.raisingvoices.org](http://www.raisingvoices.org) in a simple clear text for the benefit of school going and out of school children age 4-16 years.

## **3. Letter Link**

The main aim of Letter Link project was to create a change in the lives of children through letter counseling and to improve the psychosocial well being on what directly affects them. Through the project, children were empowered to speak out what affects them or their friends in schools or at homes

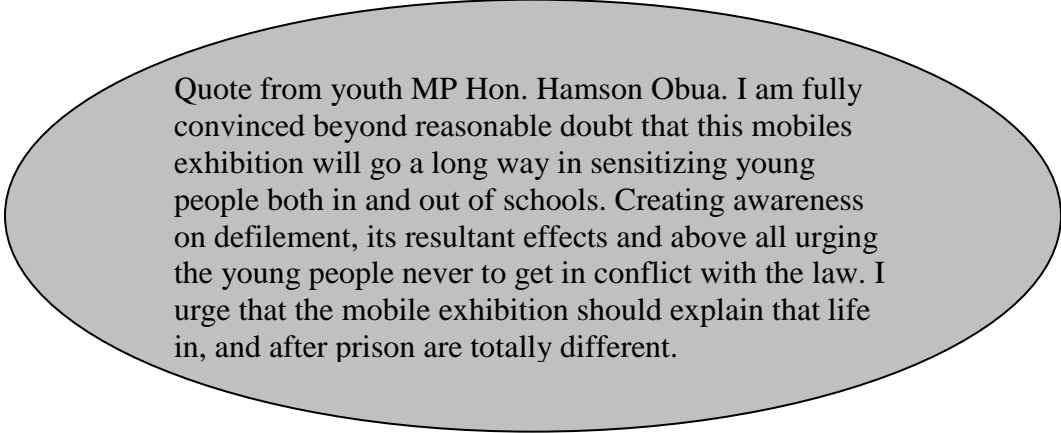


Children exchange the letters and meant with the counselor face to face. Most of these cases of abuse was mainly on child sexual abuse been done by business men, parents who are alcoholics, separated (*single parents who are living with their children*) and few cases were reported on teachers and their fellow school mates.

#### **4. Life experience project**

The project runs in Lira central prison in 2007. It was meant to empower the juvenile prisoners teach the out side youth not to get in conflict with the law. Although the prison is for adults only the majorities were the juveniles and they put prison on changes of defilement. These youth are affected by the war, born in conflict, grew up in conflict with fear, without much to do, without enough parental guidance, without a future and now life in conflict with the law. A creative means was use and several sessions were conducted with the inmates about life before, life in prison and life after prison to them share their experience with the rest of the youth outside.

A lunch for the mobile exhibition took place I Comboni College on of the boy school in lira and after it was taken to 12 secondary schools. The panels with the drawings and messages developed by the juveniles were put outside in the compound for students to read.



Quote from youth MP Hon. Hamson Obua. I am fully convinced beyond reasonable doubt that this mobiles exhibition will go a long way in sensitizing young people both in and out of schools. Creating awareness on defilement, its resultant effects and above all urging the young people never to get in conflict with the law. I urge that the mobile exhibition should explain that life in, and after prison are totally different.

#### **Target groups and beneficiaries**

The main target groups are the children and youth affected by the war. Within these target groups, special attention was given to those have social and behavioral problems, vulnerable children like orphans, those of broken families, formerly abducted children, and disabled children. Young parents are the focus among the youth. Parents, teachers and the community at large are supported in making on their roles on the care of children

### *Beneficiaries in 2007 and 2008*

In 2008 more people have been reached than in 2007 as in the table below

	2007	2008
Children directly involved in the activity	8,571	12,567
Youth directly involved in the activity	3,456	4,531
Adult directly involved in the activity	534	871
Children indirectly involved in the activity	16,990	38,523
Youth indirectly involved in the activity	4,693	6,519
Adult indirectly involved in the activity	802	1260

Beneficiaries who were directly involved are those participating in the different activities. People indirectly involved are those who benefited from the activities e.g. children who benefited from the trained teachers, children reading the magazine.

The reasons for reaching more children in 2008 are;

- a) Increased in the number of activities
- b) Expansion of the location
- c) Improved skills in data collection by the staff

### **Challenges and Lesson learnt**

As the implementation of the project has been going on, a number of challenges and lessons were realized,

Some of the cases in line with the child protection issues which are above our control and at times it's very difficult to handle since the activities help children raise concerns that they have.

A P.6 girl died due to serious child abuse by the father since the father sent the mother away leaving the young girl to head the family with her 3 sibling sister and at the same time the father was disturbing her to go and bring the mother back as if this young girl is the one who had sent the woman away.

There are conflicting external programs from other NGOs and the Ministry of Education Programs which slows down the work though the teachers promised to work and coordinate the program. Proper way of



facilitating teachers since most are asking for payment in terms of money and giving reference to other NGOs which are paying and motivating their contact teachers to make them continue with program.

There is a lot of request coming from children concerning their education like the scholastic materials, feeding in the school.

There is also a problem of transport to make us reach our beneficiaries in the time planned especially during the raining session.



### **Lesson Leant**

In evaluation that Art for Children Uganda has done, and the conclusion was that our purpose has been achieved to a great extent especially for the children, youth and parents who have been participating in our creative workshop and some of the lesson leant are;

- The pages of Dwon Otino Magazine should have a wider coverage on different topics so that children's articles are published
- Children who are abuse fear talking it out. There should be a lot of confidentiality in the report children give out
- Involving parents in the activities is a great thing because the children feel that their parents are part of them when they do it together
- The program didn't meet the interest of the youth so much so there is need to design an activity for the youth
- Children should be empowered to talk their views without any fear in order to make them be help.
- Child right clubs activity should be encourage in schools to enable child participation in various areas this will build confidence in children.

- DEO should emphasis on the services that Art for Children Uganda is giving to schools than teachers asking for payment for the services. Inspectors of school should monitor how the school is using the services that NGOs are giving to schools.
- Some children fear making statements/abuses done either by their teachers or parents
- We should use teachers for close supervision

A parent in Ogengo said children changed as a result of Art for Children Uganda program. The children learnt how to play with friends, how to create friendship, how to work at home and how to respect teachers and elders. They now have more respect for their children and they talk to them and advise them these days. They learned that beating is not the solution for problem with their children and they are looking for the causes of the problems and try to solve those

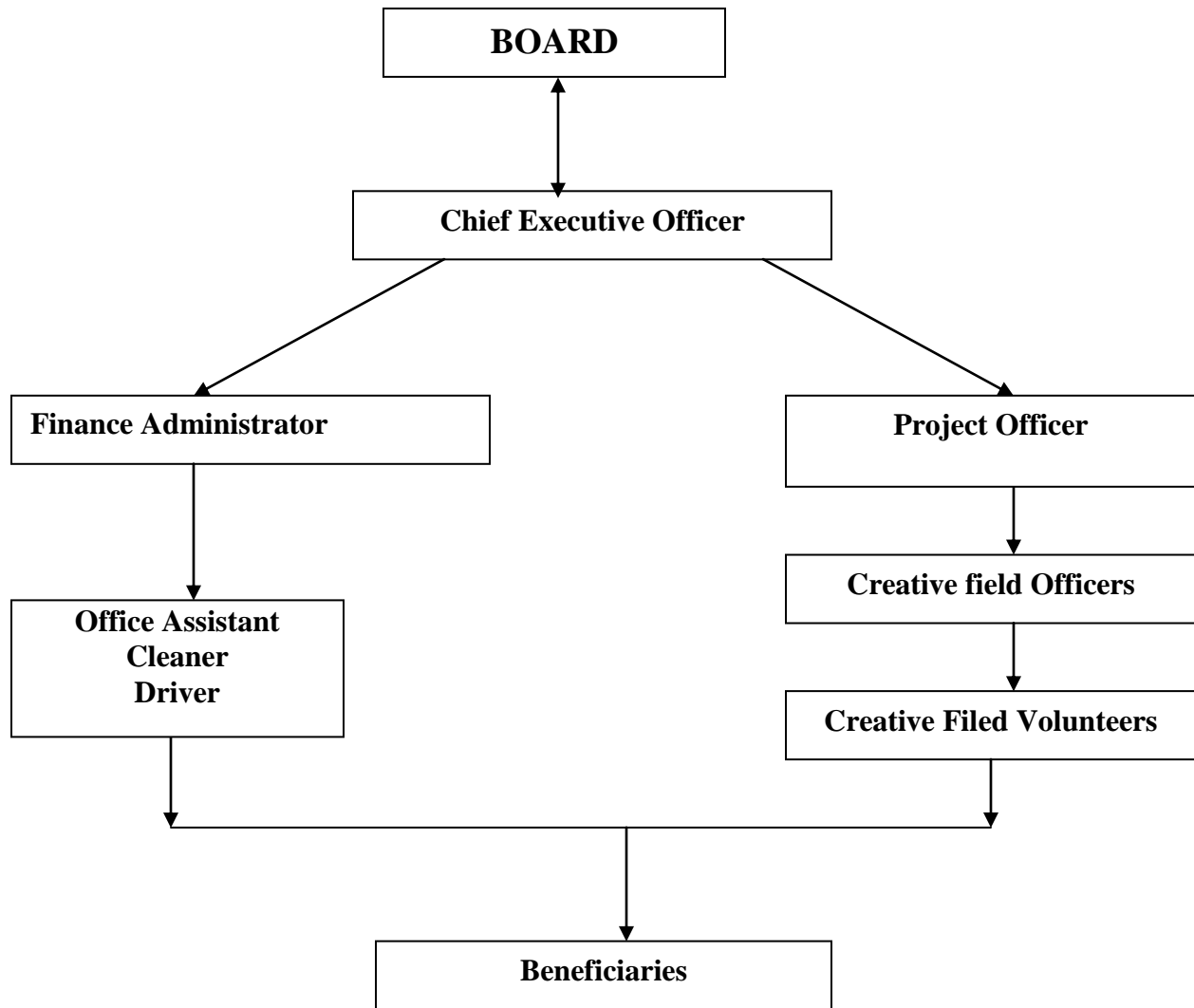
### **Facilitators**

Art for Children Uganda use various stakes holders to reach its beneficiaries this includes the filed Staffs, administrative staffs. In the school level we work hand in hand with the teachers, existing clubs like GEM, CRC etc and in the community level there are establish youth groups and volunteers which we had trained them to work with children. There are also established child protection committees, assistant community development officers and at the district level we work with the District Education officer, police, probation officer. We also participate in the cluster meetings like cluster on human rights and protection, cluster meetings on child protection.

### **Organization Development**

When Art for Children Uganda started in 2006 it had 2 field worker, program coordinator and Administrator. The board who over see the how the organization is being run. The organization chart below shows the organization structures

# ART FOR CHILDREN UGANDA Organizational Chart



## Human Resources

Art for Children Uganda has been growing since 2006 in terms of staffing. Reason for this is increased in number of projects. It is trying to keep a balance between the founder members and the expert since they can all learn from each other very well.

Art for Children Uganda <b>staff review</b>				
Category	2007		2008	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Board	2	3	2	3
Management and staffs	1	2	2	4
Volunteers	0	2	2	3



## Finance

Art for Children Uganda has also grown in terms of income as showed below in the table below.

Income		
Income	2007	2008
Art for Children Uganda nil		200,000
War Child Holland/UNICEF	27,299,250	72,752,000
Benmos	1,348,300	250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,647,550</b>	<b>73,152,000</b>

**NB:** see annual financial repot 2007/2008