

BLCDF ANNUAL REPORT (JANUARY-DECEMBER 2021)



BY

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INTRODUCTION

We started out 2021 with so much determination to fulfil our year goals of developing strong policies, financial stability, strength, excellence, quality, and an increased depth in relationships & programs. The Covid19 outbreak in Uganda, however, became a constraint, limiting certain activities from continuing due to the lockdown which lasted for over 10 weeks from June. Schools had to shut down, and movement was restricted. Since then, we have adopted tasks such as re-doing our work plans, designing new strategies to achieve our set targets, and creating ideas amidst the Covid19 Pandemic.

While BLCDF and the rest of its neighbours were in lockdown, through donations, support from staff and a bigger percentage provided by our donors from Australia and New Zealand, BLCDF was fortunate to be able to still carry out a number of activities continually. Details of the activities are included in this report.

Below are the major achievements of the Foundation in the Core Program Areas according to the National Strategic Programme Plan for Interventions (NSPPI-Uganda) for orphans and vulnerable children. The achievements we've made are through our key Foundation areas of Education, Childcare & Advocacy and Community Development, plus other support service areas.



A. CHILD PROTECTION AND LEGAL SUPPORT

BLCDF strives to ensure that all the children in its programs are protected. Through a child protection policy implemented across departments, over 265 needy, abducted, orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) are safeguarded from harm, abuse and violence, though we were in June quite limited by the lockdown to closely monitor and access some of them in the far away communities. BLCDF committee and volunteer staff were reminded of the Child protection policy, and the departments met contributed to the amendment of the document to better protect children. In addition to promoting Child protection, The Child Care & Advocacy Ministry Area conducted different home visits and parents' discussion meeting with volunteer teachers reaching in the places of Residence. The meetings hosted passionate volunteer teachers to share experiences, and to encourage our children to keep active in doing domestic work and doing home school work activities.

In August 2021, the Senior Probation officer and a Police officer in charge of Family and Child Protection Unit, was invited and talked to a group of children and the participants that day. He talked to the participants about child protection issues.



Under the home schooling and children's bible program- we always also had a parent meeting which had caregivers in attendance to discuss the dangers of having many children ride on boda-bodas, and letting younger children walk in solitude. At the end of the meeting, the parents had pledged to have a change in attitude, though this was hard to evaluate due to the lock down which came after.

Community development under the women's program with the Deborah Women in Business Collective also concluded their mini forum from Nile Garden Hotel and had several business-related teachings and training with a group of 33 participants.

Lastly, the scholarship/sponsorship program started and 9 children were selected by 4 different donor friends. The program carried on for only two terms and funds were channelled for home-schooling activities later in July due to Covid 19 effects which lead to closure of schools in Uganda.



Table 1: Trainings Conducted

Department	Participants	Topics Discussed	Attendance
Child Care & Advocacy	Guardians/Parents/ Caregivers of BLCDF Children	Nurturing, Child protection & Wise Choices	23- Ndhoya 36 -Katunda 21-Bulangira 12 -Kanonko 08 -Buuma 30 -Buundo
	Caregivers of our children in Kizigo and katunda Villages	Stoplight, Financial Management, Wise Choices for Life, Trauma Healing	25-Katunda PAOG
Education	BLCDF children and community Parents.	Home schooling and Fruit of the Spirit Bible program, To give assistance to children when handling education packages and nurture them spiritually. To mind the people their child rides with on a boda boda. To not let younger children, handle learning activities while home by themselves travel by themselves	83- Ndhoya 60- Katunda 39- Bulangira 47- Kanonko 21- Buuma 69- Buundo
Community Development	Deborah Women – under the DWIB C program	Wise Choices for Life – ongoing (business related)	113 (totalled for all mini groups)
	Mini forums (August 2021)	Business guide by Mama Queen, and woman of authority manual	33 (from Katunda PAOG Only)

Home Care:

BLCDF supported the needy, orphans and vulnerable children by visiting them in homes of relatives/guardians during this year's period. This is also where education home-schooling packages and bible programs have been conducted. With a loving staff of six volunteer teachers and a passionate committee, the children and babies thrived, and their unique education and emotional needs were met. Volunteer teachers worked closely with the children and their families; conducting meetings, home visits, and providing support as needed and where we can to enhance their wellbeing. Home visits and physical contacts with the foundation were greatly affected by the lockdown, but the committee discussed ways to move forward with this activity amidst the Covid19 crisis.



Sponsorship / School building program plans:

The BLCDF committee continued to meet to follow up on the children already selected for the sponsorship program (and under the care of connected families), and to assess sponsorship applications of the many other children who are NOT yet selected for sponsorship. Currently, the already selected children are doing well. But still, the foundation and its Board members have expressed strong interest of establishing Agape Star Schools. On this, land for the schools is already purchased and building will start around MAY next year. The greatest challenge and delay we always and have experienced with the sponsorship program; is/was processing scholarships for each child and for all the children - from our donors. A school would be a better option for covering all our children in the education program.

The school board committee plans to make some connections with friends and donors to successfully have the community school established and to share experiences for learning. It's also planning to move to phase two of the program which includes building the school and purchasing an additional piece of land, and setting up sustainability projects for running the school once it opens for its first year.

B. EDUCATION SUPPORT

BLCDF supported _ persons with education through its newly established sponsorship program and other programs indicated in Table 3. This program faced a challenge of so much uncertainty when schools were locked down after only 6 weeks of first term on reopening of schools. However, the different programs were designed to support our children during this crisis.

TABLE 3. Statistics of support towards the section of education/trainings

		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1.	Sponsorship program	4	5	9
2.	BLCDF Knitting/ Crocheting program	-	16	16
3.	Tailoring program	1	11	12
4.	Weaving	-	13	13
	TOTAL	5	45	50

Home schooling village - program

BLCDF supported 194 OVC from the community to access primary education reading materials through this program. Babies were mostly excluded for this program. Children were supported with direct learning from volunteer teachers, and scholastic materials were used for work activities. Each child had face-to-face interaction with the teachers. Distribution of materials was limited by lockdown due to the Covid19 Crisis.



Sponsorship program

This program provides primary education to children registered under the foundation. The program currently has 9 children selected as explained earlier above.



BLCDF Community School (Agape Star College Schools)

Early 2023 will see an enrolment of over 265 children into the community school's program. This will increase opportunities to mentor and nurture our children by qualified teachers and social workers. This year the school idea, name, plan, motto, song and land we put into existence. The Primary School will be the first of its type and will impact the lives of many in the community. In a brief meeting we discussed a number of issues about how we can progress from primary to high school, introducing vocational lessons for teachers who will go through a number of trainings to equip them with skills for efficiency as indicated in the table below. The School Management Committee and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) also met (even when the school is physically not operating) to discuss the wellbeing of the school which is yet to be established. See points of discussion.

TABLE 4. Statistics of Teacher Trainings

TRAINING	PURPOSE	ATTENDANCE
Teacher training	To equip teachers with integration of Christian education with academics and discipline using biblical standards	PTA
Trauma Healing	To equip teachers to handle students with issues of the heart	PTA
Academic workshop	To equip teachers with new methodologies and approaches of teaching science in a simple yet practical way.	PTA
Roots to fruitstraining (External)	To master the techniques of teaching RTF with the newly introduced lesson plan structures	4 Board members – Uganda based
Roots to fruits Trainings (internal)	To introduce to the rest of the staff techniques of teaching RTF and the lesson plan structure	PTA
Jolly Phoenix Reading /Writing training	To equip teachers with the basic skills and techniques of teaching, reading, and writing.	PTA

WORI (HIS LOVE) Tailoring/Sewing Section

The Tailoring School Hub currently has 12 learners including one male - Nkuutu Richard - who joined in June. They are categorised into 4 different groups having each with a sewing machine to learn from, a trainer, and attending to classes 4 times a week (Monday and Thursday – Morning and Evening sessions each day). Unfortunately, 7 females had to leave the project due to vision issues.

C. ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING

BLCDF partnered with Mighty Deborah's in Australia and New Zealand two years ago, supporting women in the community in a number of ways. The activities are outlined in this report.

D. FOOD AND NUTRITION SUPPORT

Infant Feeding Program

BLCDF supports malnourished infants between 0-2 years old with nutritious foods, supplements, and training. These children are often referred by local leaders, health workers and concerned community members. The program supported a total of 17 malnourished infants this year.

Elderly Feeding Program

BLCDF supported 15 elderly marginalized persons with one time food under the CARRY HOME project, including: sugar, posho, and soap.

Agricultural Support

BLCDF has implemented farming earlier this year. Several business manuals have always been used to train beneficiaries on how to get higher yields and also how to handle business based on biblical principles. It continues to train people through demonstration gardens under the micro-gardening Isaiah 46:4 project. The yields this season were quite impressive, out of half a cup of beans sowed in the hired gardens, a harvest of 8kgs was collected while 4 kgs was collected for $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of beans sowed. The trainings have been extended to 12 households in the community under the old mamas project. Beans, Chicken has been given to old mamas under their project.

E. HEALTH, WATER, SHELTER & SANITATION SUPPORT

BLCDF supports all children in its programs with medical care. Manageable illnesses are handled whenever we can; and with supervision of a guardian and an in-charge clinical officer.

F. PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

BLCDF aims to ensure the emotional health of its beneficiaries across all programs. Children are offered direct counselling to help assist in their social and emotional wellbeing. Different strategies are designed by departments to support their clientele. We tried to assign children to family groups, each with a male and a female teacher to interact with the children beyond academics. Children in residence with guardians are assigned to safe people of the same gender, and these Cord Groups meet at least once in a month. Volunteers, through home visits and direct counselling, have supported their clients. All of these strategies and platforms have promoted psycho-social wellbeing with our clients to effectively meet their needs.



G. OTHER SUPPORT AREAS

Administration, Management, Church, Maintenance and Finance are other departments whose services support the key ministry areas at BLCDF. Below are key activities throughout the year.

BLCDF ground Management Committee

The Management Committee met in April to share the Annual report, budget, and work plans. Meetings are held each quarter, we also discussed performance of the foundation, address challenges and make recommendations. We have had consultations with local authorities and these meetings have helped in adhering activities to government standards and to strengthen our relationship with the district government.

BLCDF Board of Directors

The BLCDF ground Board of Directors met in June and it was agreed that the leadership team adjusts work plans to an approved and new constitution. The Board also discussed the performance of the foundation and recommended issues to address.

Audit and Appraisal of Property

The foundation's books of accounts were audited by Clayton & Company who made good recommendations and final reports are yet to be published.

Leadership Team Trainings and Retreat

The leadership team which comprises of Directors and volunteers had leadership meeting trainings at the end of each month which equipped them for their roles. The leaders also had a 3-day retreat for prayer, reflection, and planning for the foundation.

Events and Activities

BLCDF organized several events including Dedication of Offices in March, Women's International Day, Mini Celebrations, Celebration of Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. From the Thanksgiving offering, donated items went to marginalized elderly persons in these villages. Donated items included soap, sugar, posho, matches, salt and clothes. BLCDF also had an outreach in the surrounding villages. All of these activities unified and motivated the team.



Staffing

BLCDF currently has NO permanent workers; only many volunteers work in its departments. We hope to advance this based on income sources. Volunteer payments are made for each month from local sales of gardening products.

Security Upgrades

Since the establishment of the foundation's offices, BLCDF has been working towards putting in place measures to have security on its building. The security guard was hired in February and is paid monthly. A caretaker and also a tailoring trainer were given one of the rooms to stay in as a way of adding extra security to the foundation property in the building. Stronger padlocks were purchased. Doors and windows were fabricated and improved, electricity installed and security lights.

Activities for 2022 are included in the work plan. The goals for 2022 are:

- Strong Policies
- Financial Stability
- Strength,
- Excellence,
- Quality
- Depth in relationships & programs

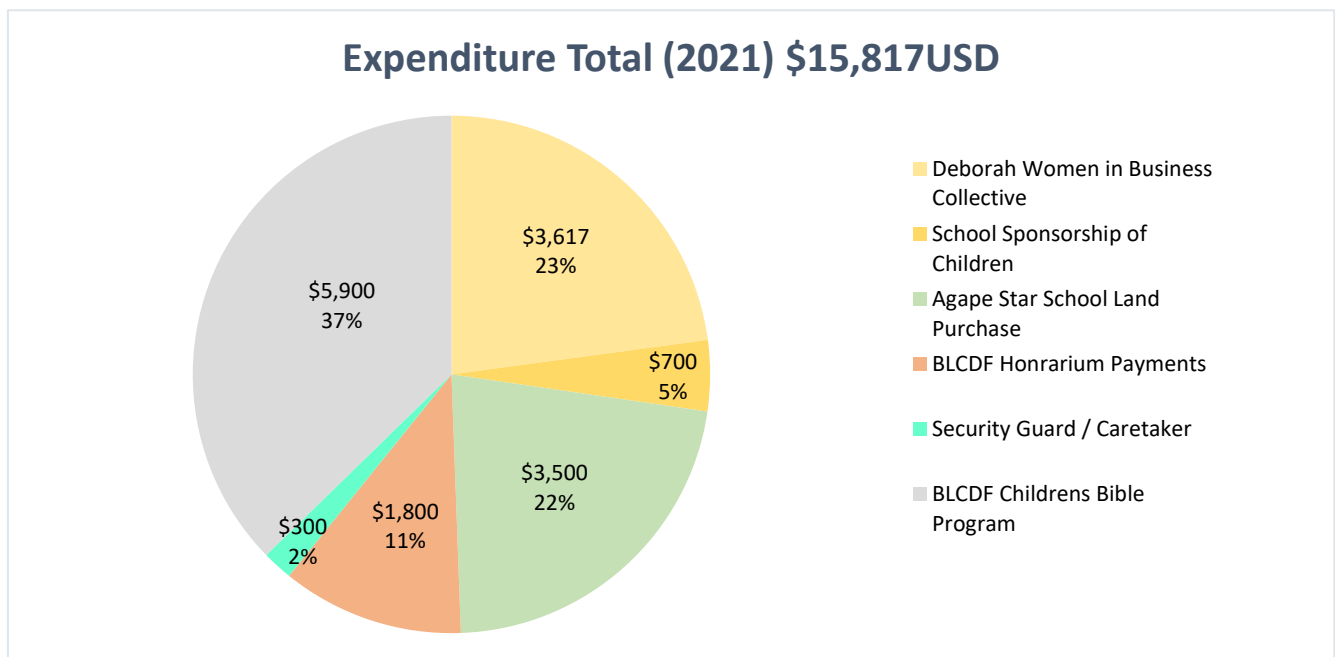


FINANCIAL MATTERS:

*Expenditure 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021: **\$15,817USD***

Expenditure Breakdown

1. Deborah Women in Business Collective: Microbusiness Projects - **\$3,617**
2. School sponsorship of children - **\$700**
3. Purchase of school land for Phase 1 Agape Star School - **\$3500**
4. Honorarium payments for the BLCDF leadership team/volunteers - **\$1800**
3. Security Guard/Caretaker (for BLCDF Office) - **\$300**
4. BLCDF Children's Bible Program, Home Tutoring Packages, Children's Outreach/Community Events - **\$5900**



*Income 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021: **\$16,800US***

Income Sources

1. Donors - **\$13,450USD**
2. Donation from the DWIBC Microbusiness Projects proceeds - **\$2,350USD**

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BLCDF Management

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