



Annual Report 2020



Preface

Child Care Africa Foundation was founded in 2019 in Gouda, the Netherlands. The organization was founded to improve the future prospects of the most vulnerable children in Africa, through access to education, safety, water, food and healthcare. CCA is a small organization which works together with local initiatives in Africa to make a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable children. In 2019, we began our activities in Amudat district in the Karamoja region in northeast Uganda.

We want to give a special thanks to all the volunteers and donors who warmheartedly support our organization in various way. Without your help, the lives of at least 152 children in Karamoja would be completely different. Besides that, we want to once more warmly welcome Willy Rietveld to the CCA board. The next couple of years, he will voluntarily contribute to CCA's work, with a special emphasis on fundraising and communication.

This annual report 2020 provides information about;

- Where we work
- Our accomplishments and impact
- Our most important lessons learnt
- Our financial overview

We hope you will enjoy reading this annual report 2020.

On behalf of,

The board of Child Care Africa Foundation

Wim van Welzen (chairman), Gerard Mouw (treasurer), Suzanne Brouwer (secretary), Willy Rietveld (member), Dorian Cosijnse (executive director).



Figure 1. A girl in Loro, Amudat

1. Introduction

Child Care Africa (CCA) is a Dutch foundation established in 2019 to improve the future prospects of orphans and vulnerable children in Africa (see: cca-f.org). We contribute to a world where all children enjoy safety and access to education, healthcare, safe drinking water, food, shelter, protection and the fulfilment of children's rights. Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC's) in Africa, especially in rural and marginalized places, often lack opportunities to complete their education and to build a better future. Their situation is often hopeless. With a lot of love and limited financial means, we help children in a hopeless situation to become a meaningful contribution to their family, community and country.

Our goal:

To support vulnerable children in Africa with access to education, healthcare, safety and counselling

Biblical motive:

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not (Galatians 6:9)."

We realize our vision by working together with local development initiatives in Africa, such as schools, hospitals, women associations, local foundations, churches, social enterprises, etc. We are convinced that transformation is most effective when it comes from within. Our local partners know the language, culture, society and challenges affecting their community. Together, we improve access to education, basic needs and counselling. In 2020, CCA worked in Amudat, Kaabong and Napak districts in the Karamoja region. In this report, we reflect on our development, our achieved goals and our lessons learned in 2019.



2. Area of operation Karamoja

Karamoja is a remote and marginalized area in Northeast Uganda, bordering South-Sudan and Kenya. Karamoja was characterized by cattle-theft and violent conflicts between tribes for many decades. The government disarmament in 2009 resulted in relative peace and security, creating some space for the local communities to develop. Karamoja is largely inhabited by nomad tribes. Its population attaches great social, cultural and economic value to cattle. The local communities depend on their livestock and small scale agriculture in the rainy season for survival. Persistent droughts affect crop production and livestock, resulting in rising poverty levels, hopelessness and alcoholism. Karamoja was classified in 2016 as one of the world's poorest areas. 61% of the 1.2 million inhabitants live in absolute poverty. It's remote location, violent past and traditional nomad culture have resulted in low development rates.

Only 5% of the adult population can read and write and only one out of every four children attends primary education. With 17%, continuation to secondary education is even lower, especially among girls. Women in Karamoja give birth to an average of eight children, three times as many as in capital city Kampala. Chronic poverty and large family-size have negative consequences for the development, health and education of Karamoja children. Parents often lack the financial means to support (all) their children to access schools. Or they refuse to pay for their children's education, due to cultural norms and values. Boys in pastoral tribes are traditionally responsible for cattle keeping and girls are married off at a young age in exchange for a good dowry. It is extremely difficult for children living with HIV or a disability to build a better future, due to stigma's in the local communities.

As a result, 86% of the young population in Karamoja have never been to school and are either not working or in a vulnerable employment. This is extraordinarily high, compared to 5% in Kampala. The current situation increases the likelihood of idle youth to get involved in crime, mental health problems, violence, conflicts and drug abuse. The majority of the population in Karamoja is poor due to a lack of employable skills. With poor education, the Karamoja region loses opportunities for girls and young people to delay child bearing, get skilled and in position to contribute to the regions and national development. Low education levels result in an influx of skilled work force and economic activities from outside of the region. We believe this offers plenty opportunities to make a tangible difference. In this annual report, you will find more information about our work in Amudat, Napak and Kaabong districts in the Karamoja region in Uganda.

2.1 Amudat

Education of vulnerable children

Child Care Africa started a sponsoring programme for orphans and vulnerable Children in the beginning of 2019. Together with our local partner “Hope for the Children (HFC)” we supported a total of 48 pupils in Amudat district. They received access to quality education, healthcare, good counselling, food and a safe place to sleep.

The overwhelming need and the tragic stories of many (mostly) teenage girls in Amudat convinced us to increase the number of sponsored children and youth in 2020 to 103. All of whom are children who would otherwise not have any opportunity to complete their education.

2019	Primary education	Secondary education	Tertiary education	Total
Boys	14	8	0	22
Girls	20	6	0	26
Total	34	14	0	48

Figure 2. Table with the number of sponsored children in 2019

2020	Primary education	Secondary education	Tertiary education	Total
Boys	16	22	1	39
Girls	34	28	2	64
Total	50	50	3	103

Figure 3. Table with the number of sponsored children in 2020

In February, the 55 new learners all received a large metallic suitcase filled with scholastic materials, beddings and toiletries. The case has a padlock, in order for pupils to safely store their belongings in boarding school. The 48 learners sponsored since 2019 received a new package of learning aids and toiletries to start the new school year. Under the supervision of HFC staffs, 103 supported learners began the new school year full of excitement!

Figure 4. A new student, excited with all the support from CCA



Unfortunately, the year 2020 did not turn out as planned and expected. To curb the spread of COVID-19, schools closed early March. The learners had only spent two weeks in school and just recently received their scholastic items, beddings and toiletries. Besides schools, shops, companies, churches, mosques and markets were closed and all transport (public and private) was banned. Poverty levels increased.

What followed, was a difficult and uncertain time. Fortunately, the team in Amudat was able to check on the children after a little while. Those home visits were conducted regularly in the following months. During home visits, we could assess the wellbeing of the children and offer additional support where necessary. The home visits were also used to talk to parents and guardians about the rights of children. The parents and guardians of the 55 newly sponsored learners signed the MoU with CCA and HFC as well.



Figure 5 -7. Photos taken during home visits

Out of all 103 sponsored learners, 9 could definitely not safely return to their homes. Six girls were at risk of forced marriage. They were given shelter by the Catholic mission school Kalas in Amudat. In Kalas, they received balanced meals, a safe place to sleep and tailoring lessons to gain new skills and to use their time well. For three other learners, we were able to organize good foster families.

In September, the Ugandan government made a key decision. Schools were to remain closed until the end of the year. Only exam classes were allowed to return to schools to take their end of year exams. Late November, the district granted us permission to organize a holiday programme for all our sponsored learners. The 3-day long event gave us plenty of time and opportunity to interact with the pupils and students. We talked about children's rights, responsibilities and the importance of completing education for a better future. A female pastor talked to the learners about preventing pregnancy and setting the right priorities; "books before babies", was the theme.

During the holiday programme, all children were tested for HIV / Aids. Out of all tested learners, four were found positive. Those were already known by us; which means fortunately there were no new infections. Besides that, all girls above 10 years were tested for pregnancy. The results for three of the girls were found positive. This information was carefully communicated to the girls and their parents / guardians. The girls are above 18 years old and consented with the sexual relations, which means CCA can't take any more action. The three girls will first quit school and focus on the safe delivery of their babies.



Figure 8. A female pastor educating the learners



Two of the girls who were provided with safe shelter by the catholic mission could finally go home in November. After repeated interactions with their parents and caregivers, they finally accepted the girls to be in school and not to marry them off. They have realized the girls are doing well in school and have changed their perception. It is a very encouraging result!

Figure 9. The two girls are welcomed home by their brothers, sisters and neighbours.

Hope for the Children closely collaborates with the local government in the implementation of its programmes. They organized a conference for the government, teachers, parents and religious leaders to discuss progress and to receive feedback from relevant stakeholders. A delegation of the local government was present during the holiday programme for learners and they also repeatedly informed HFC in police cases regarding girls escaping from female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

In December, two primary schools in Amudat received mattresses, blankets and beds. Both schools host multiple sponsored learners and help pupils who can't afford school fees to access education. Katikit primary school received 80 mattresses, 80 blankets and 17 triple-decker beds. The catholic boys school received 60 mattresses and 60 blankets. In the boys school, 52 old and broken beds were fixed and repainted.



Figure 10-12. Mattresses, beds and blankets for primary schools in Karamoja

2.2 Kaabong

Education of vulnerable children

After an extensive exploration of Kaabong district in 2019, CCA decided to start supporting 49 vulnerable youths from 2020 onwards. Our study showed that a large majority of school going children complete primary school, but lack means to proceed with their education. We met several children who completed the last class of primary school several times, because they could not afford to go to secondary school or enrol in a vocational course.

In cooperation with “Action for women and Awakening in Rural Environment (AWARE)”, we sponsor 34 secondary school students and 1 student in a tertiary institution. Together with “Karamoja Peace and Development Agency (KAPDA)”, we signed a contract to sponsor 14 secondary school students from remote villages within the district.

2020	Primary education	Secondary education	Tertiary education	Total
Boys	0	20	0	20
Girls	0	28	1	29
Total	0	48	1	49

Figure 13. Table with the number of sponsored children in 2020



The 48 students in secondary education had to return home due to the closure of schools. Like the rest of Ugandans, they couldn't do anything but await patiently. Our local partners regularly checked on the learners at home and took them some soap, sanitary pads or learning materials. During those visits, our partners encouraged the learners to make an alarm in case they did not feel safe. One of the girls decided to come to AWARE for safe shelter, after being pressurized by her male relatives to marry. In the shelter, she found a safe place to sleep, sufficient food, clothing and company.

Figure 14. A student in AWARE receives clothes and shoes

All 48 secondary students regularly received sexual reproductive health information, in order to prevent pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases (STD's). Research and our own observations showed that the closure of schools due to COVID-19 was going to lead to a high increase of teenage pregnancies and child marriages in Uganda and other developing nations. Unfortunately, one girl was tested positive for pregnancy. She is being supported and counselled by AWARE in the contact with her family and the father of her unborn baby.

Students in the examination classes were allowed to report back to school in October to prepare and conduct exams. In December, our first student ever (!) completed her 2-year certificate course in “Social mobilization & Development”. This passionate and enthusiastic young lady will continue to be involved in CCA's work in Karamoja, most especially in our programme for disabled children.



Figure 15. Sexual reproductive health training for adolescent girls in AWARE



Children with disabilities

In November, CCA received a team from CoRSU hospital in Karamoja. The team of five specialists assessed 80 children with physical disabilities in Napak and Kaabong, identified by our local partners and team members. Out of the 80 children, 45 will be able to undergo surgery in CoRSU hospital in Entebbe. CoRSU is a hospital specialized in disabled children, they commonly treat conditions like cleft lip, club foot, post-burn injuries and other conditions. In December, we visited CCA with 12 children from Kaabong and Napak. One of the children with cleft lip was immediately fit for surgery.

Figure 16. One of the children born with cleft lip after his surgery. The results are well visible.

The remaining 9 cleft lip patients were not found fit for surgery. Five of them had a low haemoglobin level and were given medication to improve. Four other children were too malnourished to undergo surgery. Those four children received a large package of food from CoRSU and CCA. We decided to establish a “feeding clinic” in the compound of AWARE, where children could gain strength and gain weight. Reaching the target weight for surgery would have been very difficult at home, because other family members would join while eating the child’s food. In the feeding clinic, the children are improving quickly!

Two disabled girls and their fathers received good information and returned home to prepare for the surgery. The youngest girl has a malgrown upper lip and can be helped early 2021. The 13-year old girl has a rare condition called Macroductyly, whereby the fingers or toes of a baby are abnormally large due to abnormal growth of bones and ... Unfortunately, there is no treatment for Macroductyly, except amputation of the girls arm. The girl and her father want to discuss this option with their family and clan members and keep in touch with our local partner.



*Figure 17. CoRSU team educates community about cleft lip, Kaabong
Figure 18. A child with cleft lip from Nakapiripirit, in CoRSU hospital*

2.3 Napak

Education of vulnerable children

Late 2019, we began a study of Napak district and the search for a suitable local partner. After reading an alarming article about the trafficking of children from Napak, CCA was more than ready to make a difference. We visited Napak several times in 2020 to meet different local organizations. After extensive research, we decided to continue discussions with Dwelling Places. This Christian NGO was founded in 2002 and specialized in preventing child trafficking and helping street children and victims of child trafficking, abuse and exploitation. The organization has an office in Kampala and a field office in Napak. They work together with the police, NGO's and the government in Uganda and abroad to end the trafficking of children. Together with Dwelling Places, we hope to make a start in 2021.

Children with disabilities

As mentioned, CCA received a team from CoRSU hospital in Napak and Kaabong. The identified children living with disabilities from Napak district will have their surgeries in 2021. Besides that, CCA will assess whether some of those vulnerable children (who can't be rehabilitated through surgery) need other support, such as formal education or vocational skilling.



Figure 19 & 20. Children in Karamoja with doctors from CoRSU hospital

3. Impact and lessons learned

In 2020, CCA sponsored 152 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC's) from Amudat and Kaabong and provided them with access to education, safety, medical care and basic needs. Our team was able to ensure that 12 identified children with disabilities received specialized care from CoRSU hospital. Lastly, we are grateful for the support we could offer to primary schools in Karamoja, in the form of beds, blankets and mattresses.

2020	Primary education	Secondary education	Tertiary education	Total
Boys	16	42	1	59
Girls	34	56	3	93
Total	50	98	4	152

Figure 21. Table with the number of sponsored children in 2020

The year 2020 provided us and our partners many challenges and opportunities to learn. Some main points are:

- Since the start of our OVC support programme, we asked parents and guardians to sign an MoU with us and our local partners. With their signature, they promise to allow their son or daughter to go to school and to embrace the rights of children. The contract prevents parents and guardians from forcing their daughter to marry. Late 2020, we decided to draft a contract to be signed by the learners themselves. All learners above the age of 10 years, who can be able to understand the implications of the contract, will sign before being enrolled. The contract helps the learners to focus and to make healthy decisions. It helps them to avoid pregnancy and to fulfil their maximum potential. After two official warning letters, they can lose their CCA scholarship.
- The 2020 results emphasize on the importance of sexual reproductive health trainings and testing STD's and pregnancy. Many students are sexually active and encouraging them to abstain should be complemented by information about birth control and protection. CCA will improve further on such important conversations, in cooperation with hospital staffs and our partner's social workers.
- Encouraged by the idea that "idleness is the devils pillow", we started a training programme for girls in the shelter. The training was received well and became a great success. This experience shows us that teenagers are interested to learn new practical skills during after class hours and holidays. Those skills can help them, now and in the future. CCA will expand this programme further in 2021.

Figure 22. Girls in Kalas shelter during a tailoring class



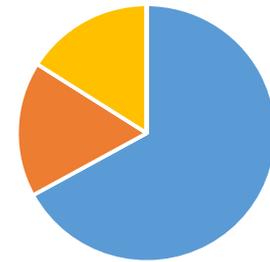
- Some of our learners face a difficult time at home due to poverty and hunger. We believe that poverty alone, should never be a reason for children to grow up without their family. CCA wants to ensure that such children receive good support during holidays. Especially children living HIV positive, because they need a balanced diet with their heavy medication.
- Some of our sponsored girls face a difficult time at home, due to risks of being forced into marriage. They know they can always come and sleep in the shelter, but some of them refuse. At home, they take care of their younger siblings, and they don't want to abandon them. For such families, CCA will organize suitable solutions.
- CCA's programmes and work areas have expanded and monitoring and coordination take up more time and attention. Besides working with local partners, there is a need for a small Uganda country team, to coordinate and support CCA's field activities. This team will be formalized in 2021.

4. Financial overview

In 2019, CCA spent a total of 13,583 euro's. in 2020, the total expenditure was 64,160 euro's. Out of this total amount, 41,200 was spent on scholarships for vulnerable children in Amudat and Kaabong. The unexpected COVID-19 school closure, left our organization with some unspent funds. Some of this balance of funds was utilized to support the programme for disabled children. The car, valued at 9,000 euro's, was donated by WVS Consulting for the coordination of our programmes in Uganda. The diagram presents the origin of incoming funds. The largest percentages originates from companies (67%), followed by individuals (17%) and other non-profit organizations (16%).

Our annual plan could not be executed as planned, due to the corona pandemic. This explains the 22,046 euro's balance at the end of the year. These funds will be utilized for programmes in 2021.

Source of incoming funds



- Companies
- Individuals
- Other non-profit organizations
- Lotteries
- Government subsidies
- (International) organizations

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	Year 1 (2019)
Incoming:	
From individuals	679
From companies	12,904
From lotteries	-
From government subsidies	-
From (international) organizations	-
From other non-profit organizations	-
Grand total incoming:	13,583
Outgoing:	
Spent on the following objectives:	
Education of vulnerable children, Amudat	12,870
Children with disabilities	713
Fundraising costs	-
Admin costs	-
Grand total outgoing:	13,583
End of year:	-

Fundraising costs are not paid from CCA funds. The salary and travel costs of our director are paid private, outside of CCA. 100% of all donations go to Africa.