



RURAL ACTION COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION (RACOB AO)



ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT 2016

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Message from the Chairperson Board of Directors



Rural Action Community Based Organisation (RACOB AO) is one of the faith Based organisations operating in the rural communities where development challenges are most severe. The organization works in communities with high poverty levels, disease stricken and food insecure. Human rights are not observed as required yet communities are not empowered enough to challenge the different forms of human rights abuse.

In 2016, RACOB AO's board of directors was fully constituted and the organization was able to achieve a lot in aspects of community and institutional development .

The board of Directors made a retreat to the project area not only to evaluate the programmes but also to pick lessons that were necessary for strategic planning. It is during the retreat that some decisions were made including the sale of all some old assets.

The money acquired out of the sold items was used to start the construction of the proposed office premises. I am happy to report that by the end of December 2016, atleast 30% of the work was done and the board continues to mobilise for resources to complete the work by December 2017. It will be a big milestone for RACOB AO to acquire her own home to ensure sustainability of her programmes.

The Annual General Assembly that sat in December 2016, generated a number of inspiring ideas to be implemented by the board in order to take the organization to another level . I pray that that commitment is maintained for so many more years.

I must thank my fellow board members who have sacrificed to RACOB AO, the Development partners i.e PATH-ABH, Icelandic Church Aid, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Finn Church Aid (FCA), Children In Africa (CIA) ,Independent Development Fund (IDF) and Mild May for the financial support and for all the capacity building among staff that has translated into improved performance.

Also to acknowledge is the secretariat staff who have diligently served the organization amidst challenges; and the Districts and Sub Counties leadership for the good working relationship without which the organization could not achieve.

My last sincere appreciation goes to all Civil Society Organisations with which RACOB AO has been working especially in Resource mobilization and joint advocacy.

I wish you best of time in 2017 and look forward to your cooperation.

The Director's Message



Dear reader, I welcome you to RACOBAO annual report for 2016. Besides implementation of the various projects, the year was eventful.

The project area was excited with both presidential and parliamentary elections where RACOBAO had observation status through the joint governance project under the ACT alliance. Through this project, we were also able to mobilize religious leaders to actively promote peaceful coexistence during the entire exercise.

As the year progressed, we participated in several capacity building events on budget monitoring, finance management, advocacy, and child protection. Staff gained the requisite skills that enabled them to deliver quality programs.

The organization continued to strengthen its grassroots presence during the year. There was closer working relations with local leaders through joint planning sessions. Similarly, RACOBAO brought local leaders closer to the communities they serve through regular interfaces .

As the year came towards the end we hosted our Board of Directors with whom we had a field excursion. This close interaction between staff and members of the Board provided an opportunity for deeper understanding of the dynamics under which the organization survives. The cordial discussions and interactions played a big part in team building for better results.

It is my belief therefore that the year was a beneficial one for RACOBAO and the communities we serve. As we begun the journey towards owning our own premises, we sunk a very strong foundation on which RACOBAO can stand strong for many years to come. My appreciation and that of my fellow staff goes to our funding partners, the local leaders, partner organizations, and friends of RACOBAO that contributed both materially and in kind.

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a black background, which appears to read "Haq Makumbi Bugembe".

HAQ MAKUMBI BUGEMBE

List of Acronyms

ABH – Advocacy for Better Health

ACT –All Churches Together

AIDS- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

CIA – Children In Africa

CSO— Civil Society Organisation

DAC— Day of African Child

DRR– Disaster Risk Reduction

EPRP– Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning

HIV – Human Immune Virus

HUMC –Health Unit Management Committee

HURINET– Human Rights Network

ICA –Icelandic Church Aid

NGO – Non Governmental Organisation

OVC – Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children

OVCNIS- Orphans and Other Children Management Information System

RACOBEO : Rural Action Community Based Organisation

VSLA- Village Savings and Loan Association

A. Introduction

Rural Action Community Based Organization (RACOB AO) is a local NGO that was founded in 2008 after the phase out of Lutheran World Federation (LWF) from Rakai and Lyantonde districts.

VISION

A Uganda where all people's rights are respected.

MISSION

To promote human rights of the most vulnerable people through community empowerment, engaging duty bearers and advocacy for accountability and quality services in the targeted districts

OUR VALUES

Transparency, Accountability, Justice, Professionalism, Quality and Participation

THEMATIC AREAS

- Health i.e advocacy for promoting quality, availability and accessibility to health services
- Water and Sanitation
- Disaster Risk Reduction and humanitarian Assistance
- Human rights protection
- Food security and nutrition
- Household and economic transformation
- Education for OVC

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2016

Project Title	Area of operation	Funder
Strengthening Community Based child rights protection in Lyantonde district	Lyantonde Rural and Kasagama Sub Counties Lyantonde district	Independent development Fund
Advocacy for better health	Mityana and Sembabule districts	PATH
Improving the Quality of Education Outcomes in Lyantonde district.	Lyantonde district	Finn church Aid
OVC Household Improvement Project	Lyantonde and Rakai districts	Children in Africa (CIA)
Rural Water and Sanitation Project	Lyantonde and Rakai districts	Icelandic Church Aid (ICA)
HIV and AIDS community empowerment Project	Lwamaggwa, Kagamba, and Kacheera sub counties of Rakai districts	KINDERNOTHILFE E.V-GERMANY
OVC Project	Lyakajura and Mpumudde Sub Counties Lyantonde District	MildMay
Rakai Livestock Project	Rakai and Lyantonde Districts	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

B- HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2016 UNDER THEMATIC AREAS

B-1 promoting quality, availability and accessibility to health services

With support from Mild May RACOBABO lobbied the District Health Officer (DHO) to successfully conduct 5 outreaches in Kasagama, Kinuuka, and Kaliiro, Mpumudde and Lyakajura targeting young girls & young mothers. The community health outreaches enabled 434 (245 Females) to access the services.

On the other hand, with financial support from ABH, RACOBABO successfully implemented a project aimed at promoting quality, access and availability of health services in Sembabule and Mityana districts. The outcomes of RACOBABO's interventions include:

- ◆ Reduced absenteeism of health workers e.g Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) of both Sembabule and Mityana districts instituted a form in all public health centres and schools to be filled in by every staff on monthly basis to reduce absenteeism.
- ◆ Increased staffing leading to improvement in service delivery
- ◆ Increased functionality of Health Management Committees i.e some new HUMCs selected and oriented on their roles e.g at Malangala, Maanyi, Ssekanyonyi, Kalanaalo, Kakindu Town council Mityana.
- ◆ Increased community awareness of the causes, effects and control measures for malaria particularly in Sembabule district.
- ◆ slight decline in drug stock outs at the health units since requisitions are made in time and submitted to ensure timely delivery

B-2 Child rights protection

With support from IDF, RACOBABO implemented a child rights protection project in Kasagama and Lyantonde Rural Sub Counties. The project led to:

- ◆ community vigilance in monitoring and reporting child abuse cases.
- ◆ Increased working relationship among the child support providers including the police, Probation and Social Welfare Officer, Community Development Officers, Civil Society Organisations, and other relevant district and Sub County departments.
- ◆ Empowered community demanding for service delivery accountability from their leaders.
- ◆ Rights holders who are actively involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of interventions targeting children.

RACOBABO in partnership with Lyantonde District Administration and the CSO fraternity successfully organised for the Day of African Child (DAC) in July 2017.

The day was an opportunity for duty bearers including Hon. Pauline Kyaka (the Woman MP Lyantonde district), cultural and religious leaders as well as NGO representatives to listen to the issues that affect children. The issues were presented through speeches by duty bearers and poems, plays and songs by children from over 20 schools. At the end of the event some commitments to create friendly environment for children were made by duty bearers.



A section of participants at the Day of African Child event organized in June 2016 at Lyantonde District headquarters.

B-3 Food security and nutrition

RACOBABO supported 20 vulnerable Households in Kaliiro, Mpumudde and Lyakajura of Lyantonde District to overcome food insecurity. Members of benefitting households especially of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS and those with OVC were trained in good farming practices and provided with agricultural inputs and equipment.

On the other hand, 20 OVC households in Mpumudde and Lyakajura Sub Counties of Lyantonde district were provided with nutritious food supplements which enabled the malnourished children regain proper growth.



Figure 2: Lubega Douglas giving out food items supported by Mild May to vulnerable households in Mpumudde Sub County

B-4: Household and economic transformation

Our friends ICA, ELCA, CIA and MildMay continued their support to the household and community economic transformation component during the year.

In addition to monitoring the already existing 120 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), Mild May supported the formation of new VSLA groups specifically for young mothers and OVC as a way of reducing their socio-economic vulnerability. MildMay supported vocational skills acquisition among OVC while both MildMay and ELCA supported households with more than 300 goats. The beneficiaries already report improved capacity to meet basic requirements such as providing scholastic materials to their children.

B-5: Water and Sanitation

With support from ICA and CIA RACOBABO constructed and handed over 5 houses to vulnerable households especially of people living with HIV/

AIDS (with a kitchen, pit latrine and a water tank) 3 for CIA and 2 for ICA. The same households also received non-food items (NFIs) including beds, mattresses, jerricans and basins.

The beneficiaries' life has significantly improved as they look healthier and are happier.



Top-Nankunda Dorcus in front of her old house and Bottom- In front of her new house receiving Non-food items from RACOBABO being handed over by the CDO Kaliiro.

B-6 Education for OVC

RACOBABO through different projects implemented activities aimed at promoting quality education.

Finn Church Aid is for example supporting a project aimed at improving teaching and learning in Lyantonde District. It also aims at strengthening School Management Committees (SMCs), Parents teachers Associations (PTAs) and teacher centered learning through refresher trainings and partnerships with Center Coordinating Tutors (CCTs) and advocating for strengthened supervision by the education inspectorate.

CIA supported 300 OVC in Lyantonde district with scholastic materials and 30 with school fees.

In Mityana district under the ABH project, the Advocacy Champions (ACs) were actively involved in monitoring schools leading to reduced absenteeism of teachers within the project targeted schools.

On the other hand, RACOBABO in partnership with Chance for Children pushed for enactment of an education ordinance for Mityana district

B-7: Disaster Risk Reduction

4 RACOBABO staff were trained in disaster risk reduction and Emergency planning and response Planning (EPRP) to be able to implement DRR activities. The 1 Week training that was organized under the act alliance was facilitated by Church of Uganda / Planning and Rehabilitation (PDR) in partnership with ICCO Cooperation . Following the training RACOBABO is in process of incorporating DRR in all its policies and programs and will implement 2 projects 1 in West Nile and another in Rwamwanja Refugee settlement in Kamwenge District in 2017 with support from Finn Church Aid and the Women's Bank.



DRR training at Namirembe Guest House November 2016

C- Governance, Management and Institutional Development

C.1: Board of Directors

RACOBABO's executive board continued providing strategic direction to the organization. For the first time since inception of RACOBABO, the board was fully constituted. The board held 2 meetings during which 5 policies developed with technical support from PATH under the ABH project were approved. The board members held a joint field visit to assess the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of RACOBABO interventions and thereafter gave recommendations.



RACOBABO Board members interacting with Basooka Kwavula OVC VSLA Group supported by MildMay during the field visit.

In December RACOBABO held the Annual General Assembly at the proposed office premises. The members discussed key issues and different ideas for the development of RACOBABO were brought up. Members also approved Deloitte as an Audit partner. On the same note, the members contributed bags of cement in form of cash and pledges towards the completion of the new office premises.



The Director RACOBABO addressing the Annual General Assembly 22nd December 2016

Funding partners conducted support supervision visits to RACOBABO. These included ABH, FCA, CIA, MildMay. The visits enabled RACOBABO to improve on her policies and capacities in both programme and finance Management.

C.2: Networks and Coalitions

RACOBABO maintained her membership with HURINET and ACT Alliance as well as District NGO Forums in Lyantonde, Rakai, Mityana, and Sembabule. Membership to such networks enabled the organization to enrich her advocacy efforts, and to strengthen staff capacity through the various training workshops organized by the partners.

networks enabled the organization to enrich her advocacy efforts, and to strengthen staff capacity

C.3: Staffing

Throughout the year, RACOB AO staff were committed to the organisation's work. 1 new staff was recruited in order to strengthen the monitoring and Evaluation department. We are optimistic that Mr Kalamagi Yakub Gowan the new Monitoring and Evaluation Officer will have a significant contribution to RACOB AO owing his rich experience in community development.

C.4: Resource mobilisation

RACOB AO successfully applied for funds from KNH and from the Women's Bank through FCA to contribute to implementation of her strategic plan (2015 -2019). The funds from FCA are to implement a project in a refugee ravaged district of Kamwenge while KNH funds an HIV and AIDS community empowerment Project in Lwamaggwa, Kagamba, and Kacheera sub counties of Rakai district.

C.5: Human Resource Development

With support of RACOB AO's development partners, staff attended workshops from which they acquired more knowledge and skills that have enabled them to fulfill their roles. Staff that benefited and the agencies include:

Name of staff trained	Supporting agency	Skills attained
Kasozi Lillian and Mayega Vincent	KNH	Child Protection Policy devt
Nansalire Irene	MildMay Uganda	OVCNIS
Kalamagi Yakub Gowan and Lube-ga Douglas	Act alliance/ European Union	DRR and EPRP
Haq Makumbi Bugembe	Act alliance/ European Union	DRR and EPRP
Gorreth Namubiru	Act alliance / European Union	DRR and EPRP

The Director presented an Article on strengthening provision of ART in resource limited setting during a workshop in Durban South Africa.

C.6: Organizational Capacity Assessment

RACOB AO was facilitated by ABH National Team to carry out organizational capacity Assessment. This exercise enabled RACOB AO to make self-assessment of an organization's *capacity* followed by action planning for *capacity* improvements. The Action plan led to development of new policies and bridging the gaps in programme and finance departments.

C.7: External Audit

Deloitte and Touche conducted an Annual Audit for RACOB AO and reports were shared with stakeholders. The management used the recommendations for improvement in its accounting and management practices.

C-8: Visitors

RACOB AO received visitors from within Uganda and other countries for official matters. Here for instance the team from Children in Africa visited RACOB AO and later households in Lwamaggwa, Kaliiro and Mpumudde. They also distributed scholastic materials to the pencil-bag project beneficiaries in 3 schools.



Visitors from Denmark visiting one of the households in Kyewanula village Lyantonde Rural Sub County

RACOB AO'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2016

RURAL ACTION COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION				
RACOB AO				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT for the year ended 31 December 2016				
<i>(in Uganda Shillings)</i>				
		Ap- pendi x	2016	2015
Income			UGS	UGS
	<u>Projects:</u>			
12-4665	ICA Rakai Watsan Project	2	63,856,530	
12-4666	RACOB AO Local Donors	3	99,669,360	54,962,697
12-4669	HIV/Livelihood Project	4	122,747,796	145,348,211
12-4671	Strengthening community Response Against HIV/AIDS		-	82,522,362
12-4672	Strengthening community response Against HIV/AIDS, Gender Based Violence and Discrimination		-	168,914,452
12-4674	Strengthening Community Structures for sustained ART provision in Lyantonde District		-	139,184,233
12-4676	RACOB AO General Activities	4	17,249,184	76,278,020
12-4677	Strengthening Community Based Child rights Protection	5	84,820,076	101,478,662
12-4679	Advocacy For Better Health	6	69,868,363	177,017,292
12-4680	Enhancing The Quality Of Primary Education In Uganda's Education Sector	7	417,479,800	-
12-4681	HIV/AIDS Community Empowerment Project	8	57,749,895	-
Total Project Income			933,441,004	945,705,929
	Non-Project Income (Unrestricted)	9	33,193,172	2,829,000
	Capital Donations	Note 3.8	-	26,307,840
Total Non-Project Income			33,193,172	29,136,840
Total Income			966,634,176	974,842,769

Expenditure				
	<u>Projects:</u>		2016	2015
12-4665	ICA Rakai Watsan Project	1	63,856,530	-
12-4666	RACOB AO Local Donors	2	99,669,360	54,962,697
12-4669	HIV/ Livelihood Project	3	122,747,796	145,348,211
12-4671	Strengthening community Response Against HIV/AIDS		-	82,522,362
12-4672	Strengthening community response Against HIV/AIDS, Gender Based Violence and Discrimination		-	168,194,452
12-4674	Strengthening Community Structures for sustained ART provision in Lyan-tonde District		-	139,184,233
12-4676	RACOB AO General Activities	4	17,249,184	76,278,020
12-4677	Strengthening Community Based Child rights Protection	5	84,820,076	101,478,662
12-4679	Advocacy For Better Health	6	69,868,363	177,017,292
12-4680	Enhancing The Quality Of Primary Education In Uganda's Education Sector	7	417,479,800	-
12-4681	HIV/AIDS Community Empowerment Project	8	57,749,895	-
Total Project Expenditure			933,441,004	945,705,929
	Non-Project Expenditure (Unrestricted)	9	33,193,172	32,605,340
Total Expenditure for the Year			966,634,176	978,311,269
	Increase/(decrease) in reserves for the year		-	(3,468,500)
	Reserves - beginning of year		2,538,819	6,007,319
	Reserves - end of year		2,538,819	2,538,819

RACOB AO BOARD MEMBERS 2016



Dr Margaret Nakakeeto
Board Chair



Jane Frank Nalubega
Board member



Bishop Kanya CEPHAS
Board Member



Mr Fred Luzze
Board Member



Mr Ambrose Tebyasa
Board Member



Reverend Father Musinzi
Board Member

Ruth Nanyonga

RACOB AO SENIOR MANAGEMENT 2016



Haq Makumbi Bugembe
Director



Vincent Mayega
Head of Programmes



Lillian Kasozi
Head of Finance and Administration

RURAL ACTION COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION (RACOB AO)
P. O. Box 4, Lyantonde - UGANDA
TEL: +256 392 721 324
EMAIL: racobaouganda@racobao.org
Web: www.racobao.org

RACOB AO'S 2016 ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES



The Chairperson Board addressing the Annual General Assembly 22nd December 2016



The head of Finance and Administration delivering the finance report to the AGM 22ND Dec 2016



Front View of RACOB AO's new progress of RACOB AO's



AGM members assessing office block construction



proposed struction



Left: Kalamagi Y.Gowan (M and E / Advocacy Officer) orienting CDOs and community Group leaders on ABH data tools at Chritor Center Sembabule -November 2016 Right:- Community meeting on positive parenting -Mpumudde Sub County



Left- Kempega P/S Pupils receiving pens from visitors from Denmark under the pencil and Pens project. Right child rights awareness session at Namutamba Primary school Kasagama Sub County Lyantonde District



Right—OVC Partners (Consortium) meetings at held at Lyantonde District Left- Head Quarters with support from IDF—October 2016



Left- DRR and EPRP training at Namirembe Guest House the ICA project

Right -Handing over a new house constructed for Nabukeera Kellen Under