

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

2014



COMMUNITY CONCERNS UGANDA

(CCUg)

P.O. BOX 196 JINJA

Email: concernsuganda@gmail.com

Website: <http://communityconcernsug.org>

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIDS	: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CCUg	: Community Concerns Uganda
CBO	: Community Based Organization
CSO	: Civil Society Organization
DEO	: District Education Officer
DIP	: Development Initiatives for Prosperity
ECD	: Early Childhood Development
HIV	: Human Immuno Virus
GSP	: Group Saving Program
LC	: Local Council
MoU	: Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	: Non-Government Organization
OVC	: Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PTSD	: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
SRH	: Sexual Reproductive Health

1.0 Brief Description of Community Concerns Uganda (CCUg).

CCUg is a legally registered Community Based Organization (CBO) founded in 2010 and primarily working in Jinja and Mayuge districts, Eastern Uganda. The organization focuses on using holistic means to reduce poverty among rural and per-urban poor. CCUg works among women, youths and children in Jinja and Mayuge districts and has its offices in Wanyange, Jinja district. The organization has on-going programs in Jinja and Mayuge districts which include the Group Saving Program (GSP), Scholarship, craft, agri-business and Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH).

With funding from Nourish International, CCUg implemented 2 projects this year, a Community Health project involving sensitization of community members about sanitation and hygiene and construction of 2 community pit latrines and bathrooms in Nakalanga Village, Mayuge district, and a poultry project involving 100 women.

1.1 Partners

- Department of Community Development, Mayuge district.

- Farm Solutions Africa



- Development Initiatives for Prosperity (DIP).



- Nourish International



2.0 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

2.1 Group Saving Program (GSP)

Aims and objectives

Started in 2013, the major aim of this program is to develop a culture of saving while helping women entrepreneurs in the community gain a relatively stable access to small loans at regular intervals.

Activities Undertaken

- Training GSP members in basic business concepts like saving, capital, investment and markets.
- Facilitation of 10 groups to undertake saving and loaning activities.
- Solving group related problems.

Results Achieved

- Facilitated GSP meetings among 10 groups pooling an accumulated amount of 23,221,000 (\$ 9288.4)
- Assessing and advancing 193 loans among GSP members
- Solving group related problems among 4 GSP groups.
- Training 100 GSP members in saving, investing and marketing.

Challenges

- Poor time keeping and absenteeism by members due to household or emergency related demands and lack of money to save especially among members belonging to Wabulungu and Wanyange GSP.
- Rumour mongering among members causing tension and divisions among GSP members
- Lack of male partner support to participate in GSP related activities; which was very common in Nakalanga and Magamaga GSP where members were scared of their partners stealing their savings while others did not want to know that they belong to the GSP.
- Limited understanding of records as contained in GSP passbooks of members due to illiteracy.

Lessons Learnt

- Remind members about group rules and regulations and enforcing them encourages discipline.
- It is important to encourage GSP members to attend meetings irrespective of whether they have savings or not.
- It is vital to encourage possible business diversification among GSP members so as to ensure consistent savings especially among members with seasonal businesses.
- Encouraging GSP members to not only disclose to their husbands about the group's activities but to seek for their support.
- Explaining details as recorded in GSP passbooks to illiterate members so as to enable them easily understand and be up-to-date with their savings and loans acquired.
- Teaching GSP members about group dynamics is paramount to increasing group cohesion

Future Plans

- Teaching group dynamics to all members belonging to the 10 groups.
- There is need to plan for, and implement a project about increasing adult literacy among illiterate GSP members in order to enable them easily understand GSP records.

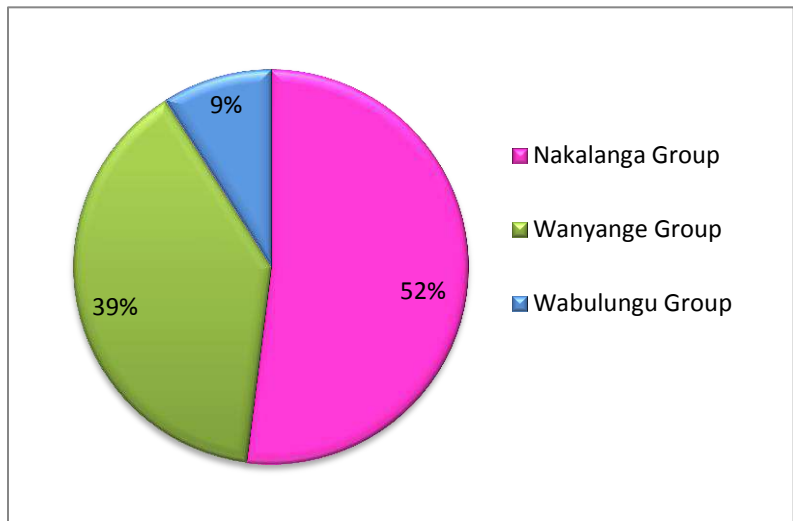
2.1.1 GSP Performance

By the time of writing this report, 8 groups had closed their saving period, 4 groups in Nakalanga, 3 in Wanyange and 1 in Wabulungu

2.1.1.1 Saving:

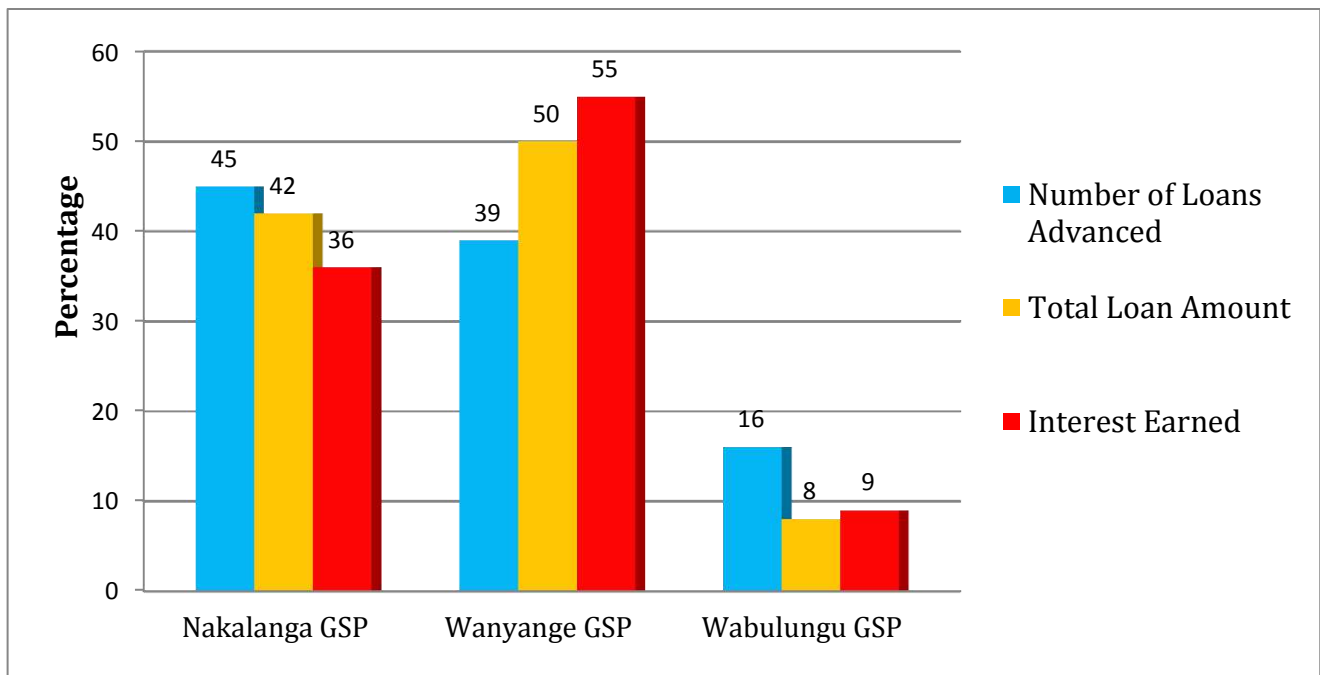
The 8 groups pooled a combined saving amount of Ug. Shs. 21,836,500 or \$ 8734.6 for the whole year.

Nakalanga Group pooled the highest savings closely followed by Wanyange and lastly Wabulungu group.



2.1.1.2 Loaning:

A total of 193 loans were advanced and they amounted to Ug. Shs. 19,558,000 or \$ 7823.2 earning a total interest of 4,289,900 (1715.96) to the 8 groups.



As represented in the graph above, Nakalanga advanced the biggest number of loans at 87 (45%) followed by Wanyange at 76 (39%) and the least group, Wabulungu advanced 30 loans (16%). Wanyange had the highest total loan amount advanced at Ug. Shs. 9,785,000 or \$ 3,914

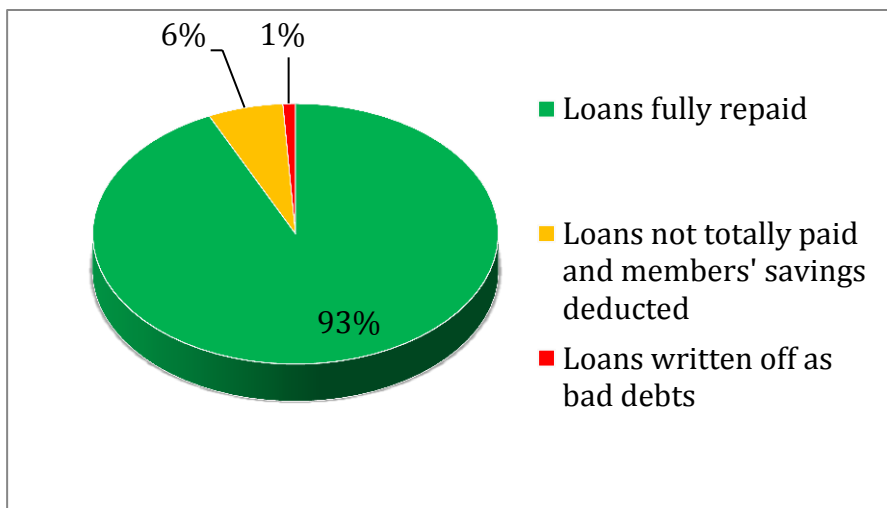
representing (50%), followed by Nakalanga at Ug. Shs. 8,295,000 or \$ 3318 (42%) while Wabulungu trailed at Ug. Shs. 1,478,000 or \$ 591.2.

Members belonging to the Wanyange GSP earned the highest interest of Ug. Shs. 2,352,000 or \$ 940.8 from the 76 loans advanced. Nakalanga came second with Ug. Shs. 1,560,000 or \$ 624 from the 87 loans advanced and Wabulungu members earned the lowest interest at 377,900 or \$ 151.16 from 30 loans advanced.

2.1.1.3 Loan Repayment

Out of the 193 loans advanced, 180 loans (93%) were fully paid, 12 loans representing (6%) were unpaid by the time the groups closed. CCUG deducted the loan amounts from savings of respective members who had got the loans.

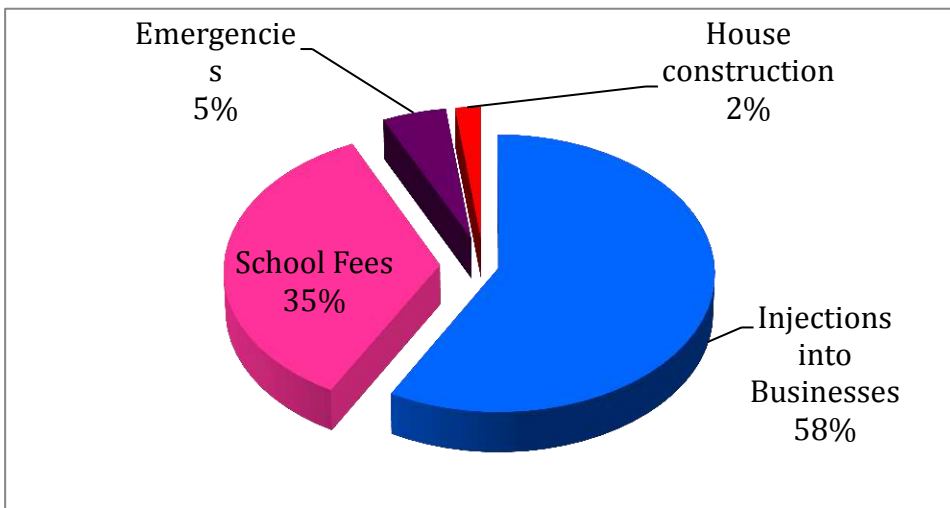
In addition, 2 loans (1%) from Wanyange were written off as bad debts owing to the inability of the respective members to repay them.



2.1.1.4 Purposes for which the Loans were advanced

The biggest portion of the loans 112 (58%) were injected into businesses, 67 (35%) were used by women to pay school fees

for their children, 10 loans (5%) were used for emergencies such as organizing burial ceremonies and paying medical bills while 4 (2%) women used the loans for house constructions.



2.1.2 Teaching GSP members business Skills.

Interns from Penn State and Duke Universities in US, and Makerere University together with CCUG staff taught business skills to 80 GSP members. Issues taught included; how to take business records, customer attraction and maintenance, marketing among others. This was followed by putting up stringent rules concerning business record taking and as of now, 75% of the GSP members have business books and take records henceforth.



Teaching Business tips

2.2 Community Health and Sanitation

2.2.1 Pit Latrine Project

As one way of reducing poverty through reduction of poor sanitation and hygiene related diseases, CCUG in partnership with Nourish International constructed 2 community pit latrines and bathrooms in Nakalanga Village A and B, Mayuge district.

Aims and objectives

- Increase community knowledge about sanitation and hygiene.
- Increase latrine coverage in the 2 villages.

Activities Undertaken

- Physical construction of Pit latrines
- Sensitization of community members about sanitation and hygiene
- Formation of committees to manage the pit latrines



Results Achieved

- Construction of 2 community pit latrines with bathrooms.
- Sensitization of 849 community members about sanitation and hygiene.
- Formation of 2 village committees to manage the community pit latrines
-



Challenges

- Desire by some community members not to abide by the rules and regulations set up by the 2 committees, often alleging the latrines were constructed by the government.
- Big community member to stance ratio, as more than 70 households use the latrines, sometimes leading to quarrels among community members.

Lessons Learnt

- Important to work with Local Council (LC) chairpersons to enforce rules and regulations about latrine use.

Future Plans

- Construction of more community pit latrines to reduce pressure on the existing ones.
- Continuous sensitization of community members about sanitation and hygiene is vital for effective behavioural change.

Management of the Pit Latrines

- Two committees comprising of LC Chairpersons from Nakalanga Village A and B were set up to manage the 2 pit latrines.
- The latrines are locked to ensure orderly use and cleanliness, and keys are distributed to households living near the latrines. Any member who wishes to utilize them requests the keys from one of the household members living near the latrines.
- Weekly cleaning and maintenance is done in turns by community members utilizing the latrines under the leadership and organization of the LC I Chairpersons.

2.3 Agri-business

2.3.1 Demonstration Garden

Started in January 2014, the agri-business program was designed to promote group farming through the use of a demonstration farm.

Objectives

- Imparting to women and youths of various categories (unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled) the skills and knowledge about commercial agriculture.
- Teaching women and youths about more effective land use and other natural resources essential to commercial agriculture.
- Teaching and promotion of water harvesting among farmers.
- Training farmers in better ways of increasing crop yields/production to increase incomes earned from crop sales and avert food scarcity and hunger.
- Encouraging and promoting vegetable and fruit production among caregivers to reduce malnutrition among OVC.

Activities Undertaken

- Clearing of the field for the establishment of the model garden was conducted
- Training of women in cow peas and passion fruit growing was done.
- Planting of cow peas, passion fruits and beans was conducted.

Results Achieved

- Establishment of a model garden on 0.5 acres of land was made.
- Training 10 women in passion fruits and cow peas growing was conducted.

Challenges

- Inadequate funds limited most activities including teaching about water harvesting, initiation of group farming and start of vegetable and fruit growing among caregivers of OVC.



- Unreliable climatic conditions especially prolonged dry spells affected the model garden,

Lessons Learnt

- It is vital to use local methods of irrigation to counter the prolonged dry spells.

Future Plans

- Concluding an elaborative partnership with Farm Solutions Africa so as to encourage group farming among GSP women engaged in farming and allow easy marketing of their produce.
- Seek funding to to train members who are squatters or those with relatively smaller land to initiate back yard or sac farming.

2.4 Chicken Project

Funded by Nourish International, the project involved 100 women who were provided with 2 months and half old Kuroiler Chickens to rear, as a means of increasing household incomes.

Activities Undertaken

- Training 100 project beneficiaries in Kuroiler Chicken rearing.
- Procuring of 430 Kuroiler chickens which were reared for 2¹/₂ months.
- Provision of chicken to project 100 beneficiaries.



Results Achieved

- 100 women were trained in Kuroiler Chicken rearing and provided with Kuroilers.
- About 60% of project beneficiaries have gained interest in becoming poultry farmers, specializing in egg production.



Challenges

- Project beneficiaries have experienced theft of their Kuroiler Chicken, especially in the period nearing Christmas.

Future Plans

- Encouraging GSP members who are engaged in seasonal businesses to venture into Kuroiler Chicken rearing so as to diversify and attain increased incomes.

- Planning for a bigger chicken project, aimed at egg production.

2.5 Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Program (SRH)

Aims and objectives

- Empower adolescents and young people in primary and secondary school with age appropriate information about sanitation and hygiene, human sexuality, contraceptive use, HIV/AIDS, sexual relations, alcohol and drug abuse.
- Offer counseling services to adolescents and young people with psycho-social issues.
- Provide career guidance to encourage informed career decision making among adolescents and young people.



Activities Undertaken

- SRH sessions were conducted among adolescents and young people in primary and secondary schools in Mayuge, Jinja, Tororo, Buikwe and Kamuli districts.
- Counseling and career guidance were also conducted among the same population.

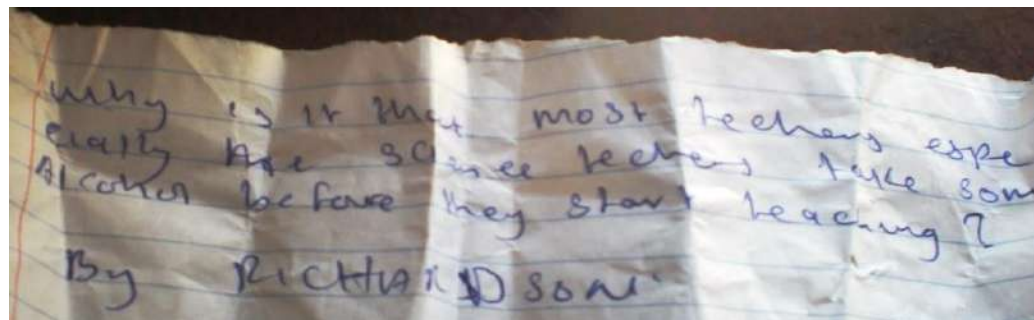
Results Achieved

- SRH sessions were conducted in 26 primary and secondary schools accessing over 4200 students and pupils.
- Counseling of 234 students in primary and secondary
- Follow-up of 10 students with depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and anxiety disorders was conducted.



Challenges

- Inadequate funds reduced coverage and frequency of the SRH sessions reducing its effectiveness.
- Limited time provided for the SRH sessions limiting the number of questions answered and students counseled.
- Lack of moral and professional ethics among some teachers who often act as bad examples to students. For example, in one of



the sessions held about alcohol and drug abuse, students often mentioned the names of their teachers known to come to class drunk. This worsens behaviour among students and makes it hard to reprimand them when caught or using teachers as agents of change.

- Most of the causes of the psycho-social issues arising up among most students and pupils stem from their parents, some of which are criminal in nature and the victims are not only scared but not interested in letting CCUG take the cases to relevant authorities.
- Limited feedback from school administrators especially when CCUG makes reports after sessions about major issues facing students with plausible recommendations. This is due to laxity and lack of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CCUG and the schools.

Lessons Learnt

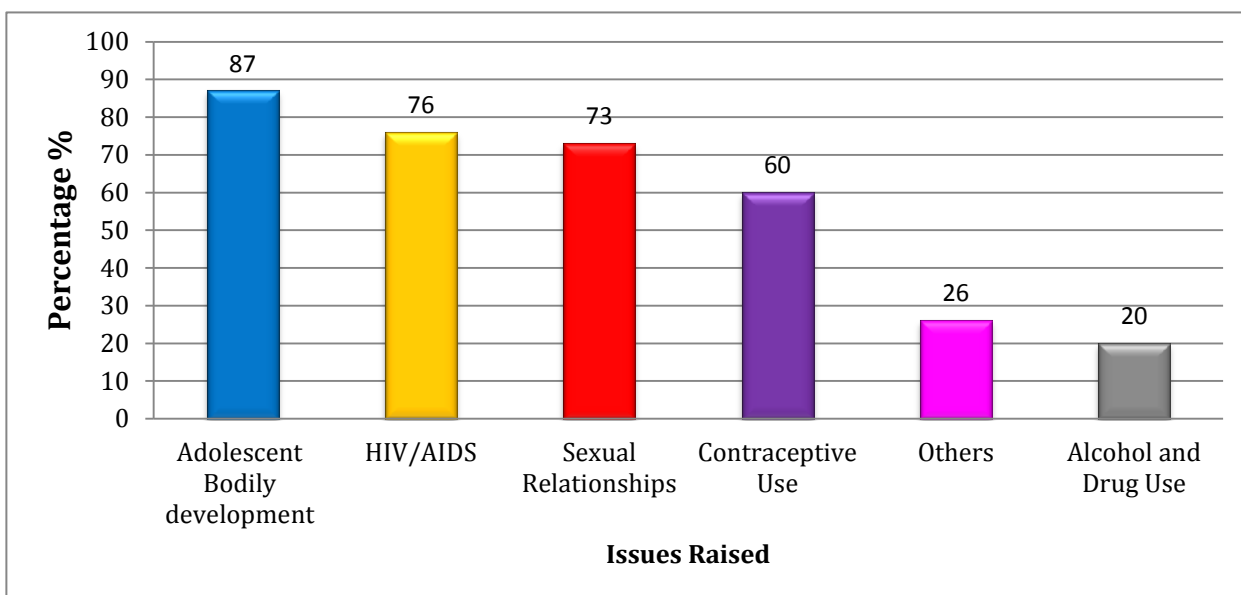
- Seeking a MoU between CCUG and schools is vital in ensuring continuous and effective SRH sessions.
- It is vital to engage teachers and parents in discussions about the main causes of the issues affecting their children especially on Visiting days.
- District Education Officers (DEO) play an important role in enforcing exemplary behaviour among teachers.
- Career guidance should be started as early as possible to offer students a bigger aim and plan for their education.
- Timely follow-up is paramount among students with major psycho-social problems.
- Training of Peer Educators is vital in ensuring continuing dissemination of information about SRH especially issues about HIV/AIDS.

Future Plans

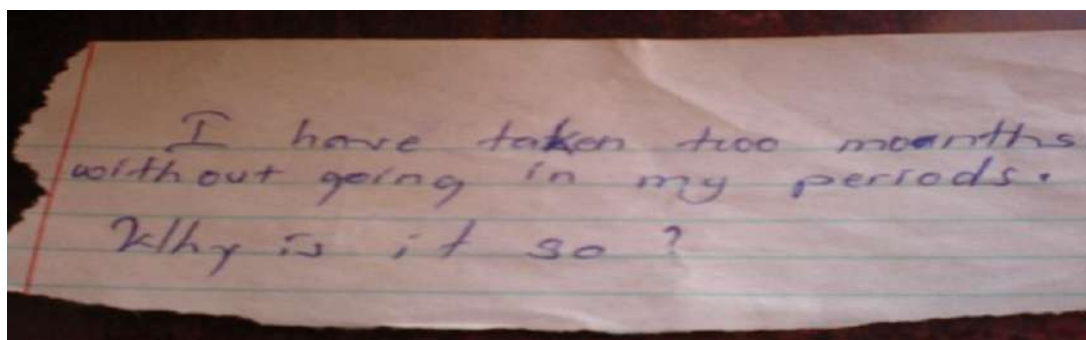
- Seeking funds to increase on the number of schools covered, attain MoU, production of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials.
- Incorporating Life skills trainings in SRH as a means to support and encourage behaviour change.
- Formalizing a partnership with the Psychiatric Department, Jinja Regional Referral Hospital to offer support, care and timely referral of students with psychoses.
- Partnering with Civil Society Organizations (CSO)/Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) offering child protection services to take up cases beyond CCUG.

2.5.1 Most common Issues raised by students during SRH sessions

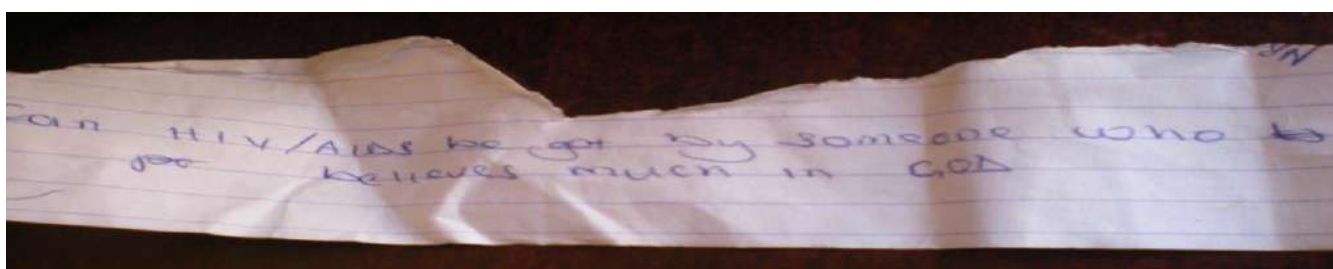
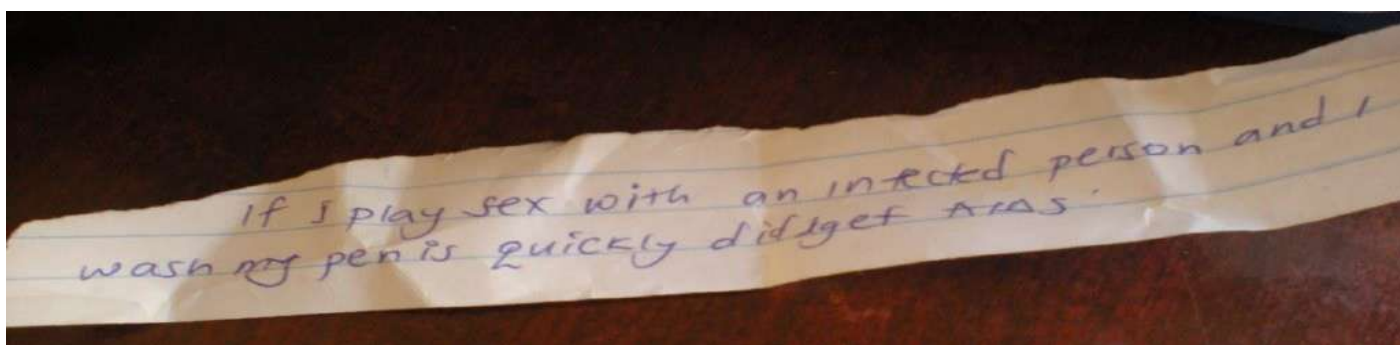
(n=1247)



Most questions (87%) raised during sessions were related to adolescent bodily development; majority of which were on menstruation period, penis, vagina, voice, pubic hair and breast development, wet dreams among others.

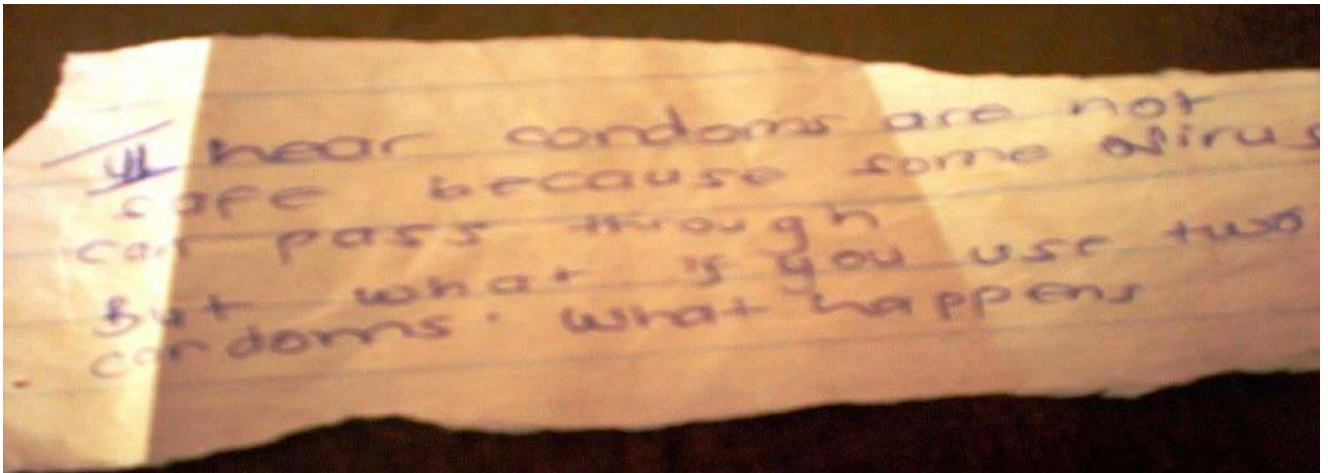


On HIV/AIDS (76%), an overwhelming number of questions were about myths and misconceptions, HIV transmission, testing, care, treatment and its effects on adolescents.



Issues about sexual relationships (73%) ranged from multiple sexual relations, cross-generational sex, break up issues to what boys should do to entice girls have sex with them among others.

Contraceptive use (60%): Most boys had issues on how to use condoms, what to do if they don't fit on their penises, their effectiveness, safe and unsafe days, when and how to use emergency contraceptives and if CCUG provides condoms to students.

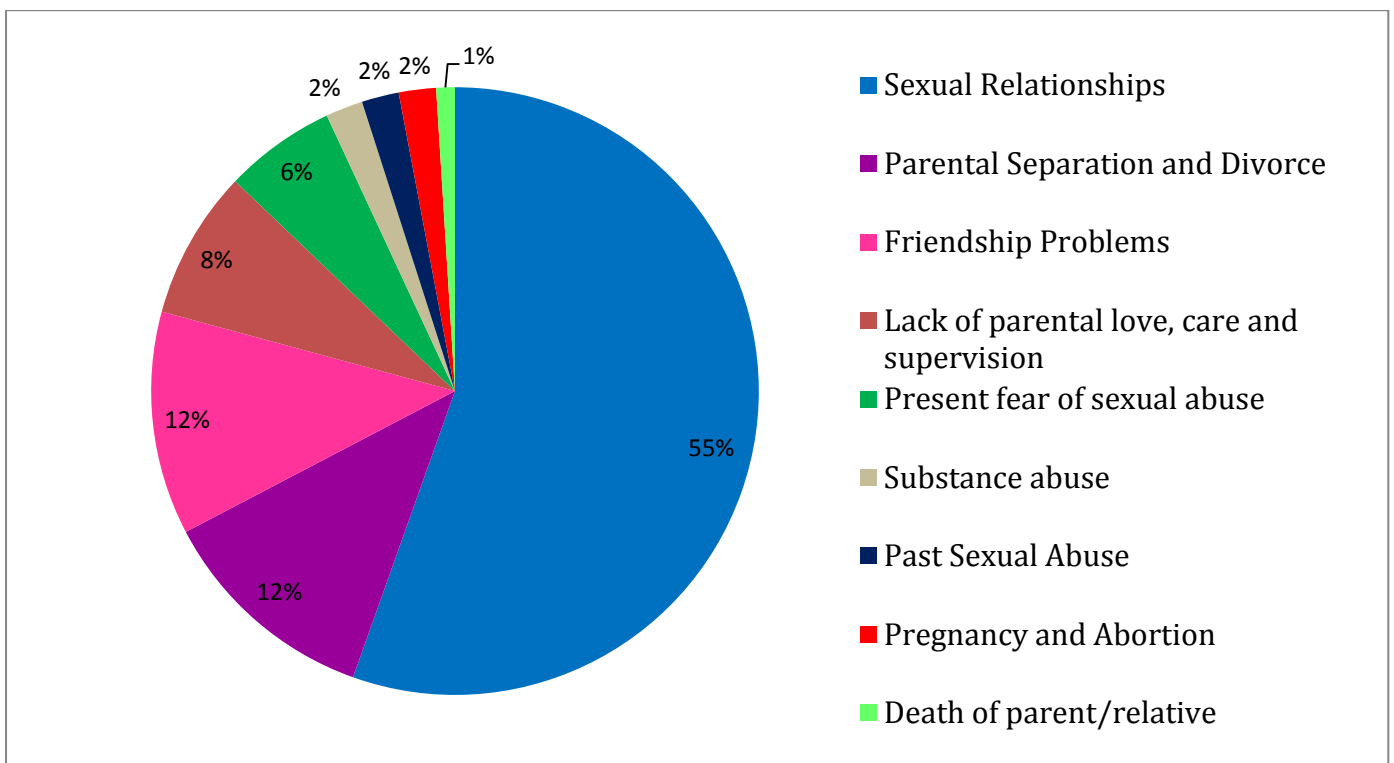


Under others (26%), students asked about sexual identity and orientation (who a lesbian or homosexual is) career guidance related questions and requests for scholarships from CCUG.

Alcohol and drugs (20%): Students wondered why CCUG staff speak “ill” about alcohol yet most of their teachers come to class drunk, relationship between alcohol and risky behaviour and whether drugs can actually cause mental problems.

2.5.2 Issues for which students sought counseling

(n=234)



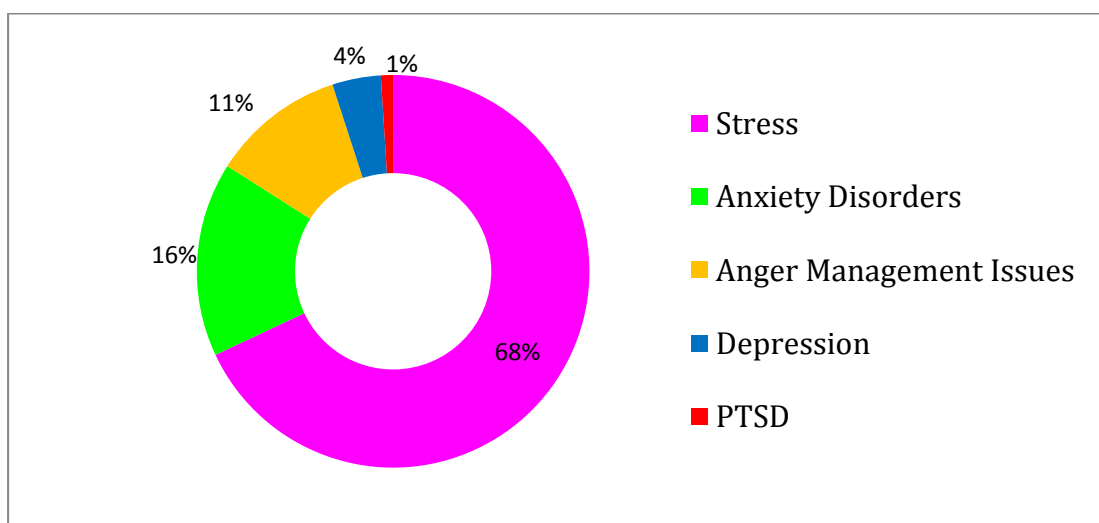
As presented above, sexual relationships took the lions share as to why students sought counseling. When broken down according to type: Student/Student sexual relationships accounted for (34%), followed by cross-generational sexual relationships (12%), teacher/student sexual relationship (7%) and incestuous sexual relationship (5%). Most students who sought counseling under this, were having multiple sexual partners, especially adolescent girls, some of whom entered relationships for financial gains.

Parental separation, divorce and child neglect, combined, accounted for (20%). Some students developed anger management problems due to parental separation while others were stressed.

All cases of sexual abuse (8%) shown above involved relatives to students especially uncles, biological fathers and male cousins. Though criminal in nature, victims were not interested in pursuing the cases or providing evidence when called upon; for fear of issues getting worse (threatened of death by perpetrators) and being blamed by parents (cases where it involved non-biological parents), losing out on financial support among others, something that presented a big dilemma to CCUG staff.

In addition, the fear of adolescent girls being pregnant after having unprotected sex, and desire to abort also caused psychological distress to students.

2.5.3 Psycho-social Problems assessed among students (n=234)



Stress was very prevalent among students counseled accounting for (68%) followed by anxiety disorders at (16%) and anger management issues (11%). Depression due to loss of parent/relative, past sexual abuse, forced incestuous relationships accounted for (4%) while PTSD (1%) was due to past attempted or experienced sexual abuse.

2.6 Education Empowerment (Sponsorship) Program

Aims and Objectives

- Provide scholarships to bright but needy OVC at primary and secondary level of education.
- Provide mentorship and career guidance to OVC enrolled.

Activities Undertaken

- Payment of School Fees and providing of other scholastic materials to OVC enrolled on the program.
- Mentoring and career guidance to OVC enrolled.

- Assessment of OVC to enroll on the program.

Results Achieved

- Assessment and enrollment of 5 OVC to the program.
- Payment of School fees and provision of scholastic materials to 11 OVC.
- Mentoring and career guidance to 12 OVC on the program.

Challenges

- Limited funds and having few sponsors has hindered enrollment of more OVC on the program.
- Some caregivers are not fulfilling their responsibilities towards the children thinking it is the duty of CCUG.

Lessons Learnt

- It is vital to clearly spell out the roles and duties of each stakeholder (CCUG and caregivers) in the provision of needs to OVC enrolled.
- Continuous monitoring and assessment of OVC studies improves on academic performance.

Future Plans

- Plan for, and implement a project on Income Generating Activities for caregivers of OVC in order to improve on their ability to offer timely health and educational services to their children.
- Train caregivers of OVC in parenting and Early Childhood Development (ECD) so as to provide them with skills and knowledge vital for improving physical, emotional and



psychological development of OVC.

- Due to the fact that most caregivers of OVC pass/have passed through many life challenges and problems, there is need to provide psycho-social support inform of psycho-education and counseling so as to improve on their emotional and psychological wellbeing.

Some of the sponsored children

2.7 Crafts Program

Aims and Objectives

- Engage women into crafts making as an income generating venture.

Activities Undertaken

- Training women in crafts making
- Provision of craft materials
- Marketing of Craft Products

Results Achieved

- Trained 17 women in craft making and provided them with craft materials.
- Got more international market for the craft products.

Challenges

- Limited local market for the craft products.
- Delayed shipment of the craft products which affects supply and marketing.

Lessons Learnt

- Timely shipping and use of reliable couriers is vital in delivering of the craft products on time.

Future Plans

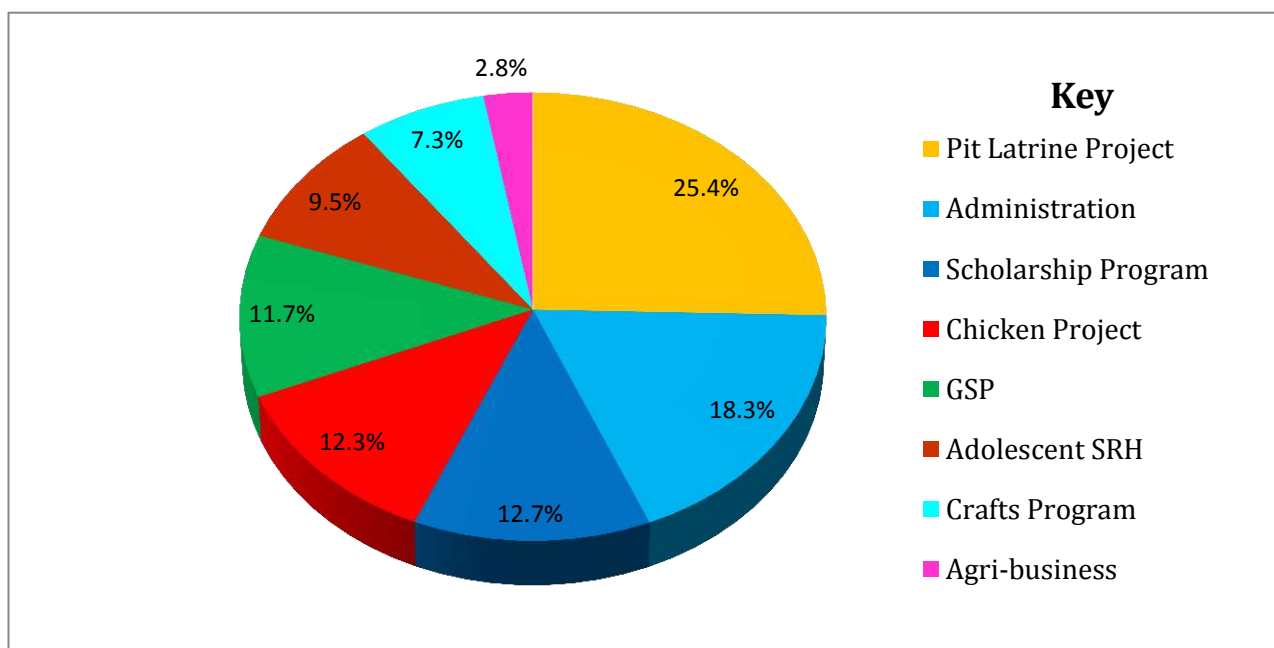
- Train and engage more women in craft making.



Some of the craft products

2.8 Financial Data

2.8.1 Expenditures



Program/Project	Ug. Shs.	USD
Pit Latrine	8,532,600	3,413.40
Administration	6,158,400	2,463.36
Scholarship	4,270,400	1,708.16
Chicken Project	4,129,900	1,651.96
GSP	3,940,000	1,576.00
Adolescent SRH	3,183,500	1,273.40
Crafts Program	2,456,200	982.48
Agri-business	944,000	377.60
Total	33,615,000	13,446.36