



PCE FOUNDATION

**PEARL COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION
PCE FOUNDATION 2018 ANNUAL REPORT**



Dear supporters and sponsors,

Thank you for dedicating your time to read our 2018 annual report! As we have done in the past before we share with you our annual updates, we would like to restate our core values in the struggle for grassroots development.

We began operations by assisting local girls to go to school, with the long term aim of increasing the capacity of local families to support the education of their children. Since then, we have worked continuously with the communities we serve through a wide range of projects focused on education, livelihood, agriculture, preventive health care support and cultural exchange. Through these initiatives, we have had strong support from the local communities.

Our focus is on capacity building in and for rural communities, especially the education and empowerment of girls, women and children.

Our emphasis is on community participation and leadership which helps community members work together, own the achievements facilitated by our programs, and sustain positive change. We are disability inclusive.

Our Vision is to have empowered communities that can take charge of their own development.

Our Mission is to enhance knowledge and skills within rural communities and to promote the exchange of information and best practices through education, mentorship, advocacy and

strategic partnerships for social, cultural and economic development. We seek to break the cycle of poverty and empower communities to take charge of their own developments.

Our major development objectives include:

- To increase enrollment of girls in schools, especially in secondary and tertiary education and through that to cultivate leadership and empower youth in rural Uganda.
- To increase crop production and promote agricultural best practices.
- To promote savings and entrepreneurship in order to reduce donor dependency.
- To promote skills education (particularly equal access for girls) in rural Ugandan communities, including entrepreneurship, vocational skills training, cultural exchange and mentorship engagements.
- Promote health education, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
- To promote cultural exchange and diversity locally and internationally.

Our annual report is therefore designed, built and implemented based on the above objectives and values.

We would like to thank all of you who have generously contributed toward our work here at the grassroots. To date, 88.6% of our projects, programs and initiatives are still dependent on donations from around the globe. We work hard to be good stewards of these funds and what we have achieved with them thus far is beyond our own expectations.

Here are brief highlights of our work from January to December 2018.

Portland School

Portland Nursery and Primary school construction was started in 2014 and completed in 2017; and now provides educational opportunities for children from baby class (age 3-7) to primary seven (age 8-15). You can find details of the Ugandan education system on the Where We Work page of our website. Portland school is registered and certified with the Ministry of Education and Sports, Uganda.





We are recurrently applying for our own UNEB Center Number, and are hopeful that by 2020, we will have our students sit for national examinations within Portland school. We are looking forward to this achievement!

The Rural Girl Child Mentorship (RGCM) project

The number of RGCM beneficiary students keeps increasing as the students transition from Portland Nursery and Primary school to high school levels. To-date we have supported 220 students in different high schools, colleges and universities.



Sponsoring young people (ages 13-24) has a great impact in the impoverished grassroots communities; we are not only delaying marriages and controlling rapid population growth, but are also changing families' perceptions about girls' education, reducing the rates of domestic violence and building careers for grassroots women and girls who would have never otherwise had a chance at a good education and personal independence.



Transition of Educational Support program

As mentioned in our 2016 and 2017 annual reports, we are changing our long-term strategic path for education. For our first six years of operation, we carefully selected the brightest students in our rural area and sent them to boarding schools in Kampala. We expected the educational opportunities to be better there and thought that the students would be able to concentrate more on their studies if they weren't also required to help around the home and on the land.

This was true to a great extent, but we realized that there are some negative aspects to this approach as well. Transporting the students to Kampala and paying the boarding school fees is becoming increasingly expensive, with the increasing inflation and taxes in the country. In addition when a mentor is unexpectedly no longer able to support their mentee financially, it puts a tremendous burden on the program. Another concern is that as these girls complete their education, they are more likely to remain in the city than to return to the village and use their skills to help the community prosper. And finally, this approach limits PCE Foundation to helping a relatively small number of students when there are many more actively seeking our support.

To address these concerns, we decided to work at improving educational opportunities in Tororo area, Eastern Uganda. Our eventual goal is to facilitate the development of a complete school complex, including pre-primary, primary, secondary and vocational/technical schools within the Amor village community, which will enable a far greater number of young people to acquire a good education. It is also anticipated that more of them will remain in the area following graduation, and use what they've learned to benefit their communities.

In 2014, we took our first step toward this goal by building the Portland Nursery and Primary School in Amor village, Tororo district. Portland Nursery and Primary school is now a complete school of thirteen classrooms with 261 pupils, 13 teachers and 8 non-teaching staff. Although it



focuses on a younger age group (ages 3 to 14) than those in the RGCM program (12-24), we still believe it is an important step in the right direction.

Our next move is to build a secondary/high school so that we are well positioned to support your mentees within the local communities.

We are making an appeal to everyone and anyone who might be in a position to support us in acquisition of land and construction of a secondary/high school. If you would like to help us reach these goals, please get in touch with us so we can pursue this dream together.

Amor Village Empowerment Center

The Amor Community Empowerment Center construction project remained on standstill this year. Due to several urgent financial needs, we shifted our priority to completion of funded projects, looking for sponsors and strengthening household livelihood through group- led initiatives.



The

Empowerment Center construction project was started in January 2014 as a shared effort between the community members who made the bricks and our donors across the globe. Our goal at the outset was to have an information sharing and safety center, and a space where community meetings could be held indoors. It has unfortunately been at a standstill due to lack of funds since late 2016.

Funded projects

As mentioned before, this year we gave priority to concentrating on funded projects. We had three funded projects that were successfully executed.

The first one was Opportunity Grant funded by AmplifyChange. This funded **RGCM Girls' Village to Village Peer Education project** was implemented by 103 RGCM girls (ages 13-18) who spent their school breaks/holidays giving sex education to 10 girls each in their respective

villages. This was a one year project that was executed between September 2017 and September 2018. It covered 24 villages within Tororo and Buteleja Districts.



This project was concluded by gathering the 103 group leaders along with each of their 10 inner circles for the project wrap up; for a total of 1,030 girls. We invited their parents and guardians, community leaders, district leaders, the local government and civil society to witness and hear directly from these young girls. This project trained these young girls to speak out without fear or shame. They therefore boldly told their stories – shocking stories - on the wrap up day.



The project revealed that 79.2% of the beneficiary girls (ages 12-17) had had sex before their 8th birthdays. This was a shock to everyone who witnessed the wrap up of this project. There was also a panel composed of 20 girls, a community leader and PCEF Executive Director. None of these 20 girls were virgins. They explained that their parents and guardians do not care about their needs, which is why they accept gifts from men in exchange for sex.

Th



Based on our survey at the project's conclusion, this one year project helped save 94% of the beneficiaries from early marriages. Only 6% of these girls either got pregnant or got married. NOTE: The argument could be made that even without the project, not every girl would have gotten married or pregnant.

The second project was the **Maker Girls Social Enterprise Project** funded by the Embassy of the United States in Kampala. This project was implemented by five RGCM University graduates who engaged 220 girls (aged 12-22) from 15 rural primary and secondary schools.



The 330 girls made and marketed skin jelly products which was an economic empowerment and helped them support their education by partially covering the cost of their personal and school needs. This project was intended to reduce sexual exploitations of the young girls at the grassroots levels. Shameless men lure young girls into sex by offering them such basic items such as skin jelly, soap, underwear that they could not otherwise afford. This was also a one year project, running from November 2017 through November 2018. We reached out to over 8000 people, directly and indirectly – this includes their customers and general schools populations.



Although the project ended in 2018, interested schools and students are still using it in their entrepreneurship clubs within their respective schools.

SALT-uk (Serving Africa-Led Transformation) funded the **Households Poultry Income Generation project**. This project targeted 61 families from 24 different villages, whose daughters and sons do not have sponsors. This project kicked off in August this year, and is intended to be an ongoing initiative.

These 61 households received training on poultry farming as well as management and marketing/business skills. Each family received 6 chickens; one breeding cock and 5 hens, utilizing a free range system. Monthly monitoring and disease prevention and treatments were carried out by the project field officer. Unfortunately by November, 82% of the families had lost their fowls to Newcastle disease, despite treatment administered. The families that closely monitored and cared for their chickens are registering increasing stock in their farms. One of

the most successful farmers is Museni (age 45) who has over 50 chickens at his farm in Morkiswa village.



He has dedicated his life in caring for his birds. His plan is to sell some of the chickens in 2019 and pay for this children's education. He is targeting to raise and maintain 2000 birds by 2021. We at PCEF came up with an idea of sustaining this project and set up a demonstration farm in December 2018 in Amor village where there are currently 70 birds. Our intention is to demonstrate proper chicken husbandry and to continue giving out chickens to families who are ready to restock and carry forward with the poultry project at their household levels.

Mothers' Food Pantry was a project started by 20 mothers, which benefits the wider community. The project addressed the challenge of food storage, preservation and management at household levels. The rural women were complaining about their husbands and sometimes their sons taking their hard-earned produce and selling it to use for personal benefit, such as alcohol, pleasure, or for marrying other women, instead of supporting the household or educational needs of their children.



The women initiated a food store, where they safely keep their produce and only collect what they need at a time. The Mothers' Food Pantry was funded by The Pollination project in June 2017 and now involves 38 women.

Another successful project funded by The Pollination Project was **Vegetable Growing using Drip Irrigation for HIV Positive Mothers**. Thirty (30) women living with HIV realized the need for collective efforts in boosting their immunity and teamed up to start vegetable growing using drip irrigation. They grow tomatoes, onions, eggplants, cabbage, spinach and collard greens throughout the year.



Once they sell their vegetables they use the funds to support their families – meeting their household needs including educating their children and the children under their care.



To-date these women have earned 1,272,000UGX from vegetable sales. They share their profits and invest the rolling funds on seeds and tools.

Agriculture

We received a donation from Star Action Charity -UK (Stuart Neil) for fencing the existing mango and pineapple orchards, within which chickens live. This fencing project was successfully implemented. It saved us from loss of fruits as well as the birds that were being stolen by intruders.

Agriculture is the backbone of Uganda. The rural population fully depends on Agriculture for food and income. Many families own less than an acre of land and, this is the only land they have to earn a living on. We at PCE Foundation are trying our very best to introduce better farming practices that lead to soils improvement and water retention as well as improved crop yields.

This year, we lobbied for vegetable seeds from individuals from across the globe; Collard greens, cabbages and egg plants. We set nurseries for each of these vegetables and shared the seedlings to the individual families. We are also promoting organic farming.

We would like to increase our agricultural interventions because this is where the grassroots people earn a living year after year.



With skills in better farming practices, provision of farm seeds and equipment, we can improve their lives, income and food security.

Other Activities:

We had 25 overseas guests this year. 10 guests were from Australia, 8 of them through Little Africa tour company Australia; five were from the U.S, nine dentists came from Germany and 1 phonics teacher from the Netherlands. They each individually shared their skills, acts of kindness and volunteer activities with the local population.



Once in a while, we rescue children from extremely vulnerable families . This year, we rescued 3 children from Oriyoy village, whose father died of HIV, and whose mother was critically ill. She

was not capable of supporting all of her 8 children. Mary (13), Stephen (11) and Anna (9) were all school going but were out of school because they couldn't afford education costs.

Same was the Teddy (10) whose mother died of Yellow Fever and left her in the hands of a



drunkard helpless father. We took them to Portland school as boarding pupils where they feel safe and happy. Many thanks to all of our individual sponsors; you make such a huge difference in the lives of these children.



Amor Village Children's Party IV

Each year, Amor Village Children's Party keeps getting better and bigger. We made a transition this year to change the date to the beginning of the year rather than during the Christmas festive season. We realized that children get to eat better on Christmas and the day after, which was our usual celebration date. We have now changed the date to every January 12. December – February are usually the hottest and dry months in Uganda, characterized by starvation and general lack of food and water. January proved to be a good balance for us. The celebration that was initiated in 2015 is fun for children from over 24 villages, who converge to have fun; match, dance, eat and play. More about the children's party will be shared in our 2019 report.

We value this project because, in Tororo and other rural communities of Uganda, during any gatherings or celebrations that include feasting, children are hardly considered. They are actually not even invited, but in most cases many will show up anyway. Adults are served food and drinks first, and the children eat last, usually when there is little to no food left. If there's any food left for them, they have to struggle to get a share. The Amor Village Children's Party therefore is a celebration strictly for children ages 3 to 15.

Financial Report – January to December 2018

Every year that passes, we can never be so sure of how much support we will receive. We are always amazed by your dedicated support throughout the years. Below are your contributions for this year.

Statement of activities:

AUDIT 2018 -JANUARY TO DECEMBER	
Item	Amount
Income	471,480,932.15
Expenditure	474,956,794.00

Income	USD rate @ 3580	Euro rate @ 3650	UGX Rate @ 1
Bf as per December 31, 2017			282,523.85
A More Balanced World USA	70,315.37		251,729,024.60
Hans-Joachim Hermann Germany		16,651.31	60,777,281.50
SALT-uk (Serving Africa Led Transformation)	3,548.51		12,703,665.80
Carole Howlett		2,117.00	7,727,050.00
Donations from Australia			6,000,000.00
Glen Francis	240.00		859,200.00
Stuart Neil	3,250.01		11,635,035.80
Reversals	15.07	12.00	97,750.60
Portland Nursery and Primary School			87,227,400.00

PCE Foundation Parent's Contribution			15,520,000.00
Marker Girls			350,000.00
Others			16,500,000.00
TOTAL INCOME IN UGX			471,408,932.15

Expenditures		<i>2018</i>
Administrative Expenses		
School fees expenses Nursery/Primary/Secondary/University	302,650,000.00	
Communication/Postage	1,920,000.00	
Construction	83,284,800.00	
Public Relations/Media	520,000.00	
Bank Charges	2,851,094.00	
Medical expenses	2,185,400.00	
Office Expenses	7,450,000.00	
Transport Expenses	14,865,000.00	
Feeding Portland Nursery and Primary	15,564,500.00	
National Examination registration	6,455,000.00	
Project Personnel		
Volunteers	13,280,000.00	
Security expenses	1,400,000.00	
Non Personnel		
Utilities	12,270,000.00	
Farming and Agriculture	925,000.00	
Maker Girls/materials/Training	6,086,000.00	
Vehicle Maintenance	3,250,000.00	
TOTAL	474,956,794.00	

Bank bal euro 38.79	<i>141,583.50</i>
usd 52.70	189,720.00
Balance in Ugx as @December 31, 2018	331,303.50

PCE Foundation Management and Volunteers Update

Board Members Transition

As of November 2016, PCEF formed a new Ugandan based Board of Directors who have a deep understanding of the culture and needs of the people. From the beginning, PCE Foundation has been mentored, monitored and supported by visionaries from around the globe, and their knowledge and skills have greatly benefited the program. The new board is fully equipped to guide our growth and support our development in the years to come. Please visit the "Board of Directors" page on our website for details (pce-foundation.org/board-of-directors).

Management Team

PCE Foundation is continuously expanding at the grassroots on a voluntary basis. The Portland school alone now operates with volunteer teachers (who are paid facilitation of their transport, food, utilities and communication), same for the administrative support and other support teams. Together, there are 36 volunteers supporting different projects and programs, including website management as listed in the last page of this report.

Since our founding, PCE Foundation has been run by a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers. The following people are the core volunteer management team behind its operations and success:

- Adam M
- Andrew O
- Anthony O
- Aunest K
- Beatrice A N
- Cecilia A
- Christine A
- Connie A
- Dominic O
- Donato O
- Felix O O
- Francis O
- Gabriel J
- George W
- Isaac O
- Jamach O
- James M
- Jane R N
- Joana D
- Joseph M
- Joseph N
- Joseph O
- Josephine A
- Judith M
- Lazarus O
- Mary S A
- Margret A
- Nigel & Rebecca K
- Nociata A
- Norah C A
- Patrick S
- Peter N
- Richard A
- Richard O
- Sabina A

- Shelby Y
- Scovia K
- Ted & Lindsey C
- Valentino O
- Veronica A

Current challenges and future plans

Our challenges and future plans remain much the same as last year's. We are continuously looking into building partnerships with local, global and international NGOs & Charities in order to create sustainable solutions with and for the people at the grassroots.

Based on our vision, "to have empowered communities that can take charge of their own development," all our projects are community-driven solutions to community challenges. This fosters the implementation of need-based projects that are not only relevant and appropriate, but also sustainable.

In line with this principle, PCE Foundation has identified community needs that are being developed into fully-fledged projects. Some of our goals for the next 5 years include:

1. Completing the Amor Community Empowerment Center by December 2019.
2. Constructing secondary and vocational schools in order to benefit the wider community by December 2022.
3. Finding sponsors for those deserving and vulnerable children and students who are currently without educational support, from nursery, primary, secondary, vocational and tertiary education, this is on an ongoing basis.
4. Strengthening the health, agriculture and micro-finance projects, including introducing new innovative enterprising ventures.
5. Securing administrative grants/funds. PCE Foundation is a volunteer-based organization with no paid staff. This limits the human resources available since everyone still needs to support themselves and their families.

URGENT NEED: We are currently looking for help in supporting our fundraising activities. Our greatest need is for help in finding sponsors for students in all levels of education (nursery to college levels). We have many vulnerable and deserving students enrolled without sponsors. It is very difficult for us to reach out to the right people who could potentially support our work because of our physical location here at the grassroots. At the same time, it is very stressful looking for support and at the same time monitoring, managing, executing on-the-ground programs, operations and activities. We all serve as volunteers due to limited financial resources to cover administrative costs. We therefore welcome volunteers from all corners of the world! Please contact us for details.