



**UNACOH**

“Health for All and By All”

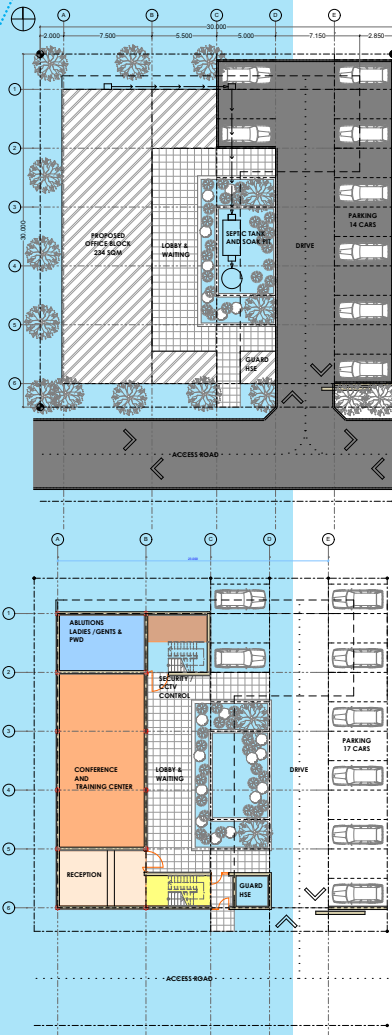
**UGANDA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY  
AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (UNACOH)**

**Annual 20  
Report 22**

# UNACOH

## Headquarters Architectural Impression

Let us join hands in the fundraising drive to realise this great milestone in the history of UNACOH



at Lukwanga, Sentema Road, Wakiso District

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## List of

# Acronyms

<b>AFPHA</b>	African Federation of Public Health Associations
<b>ASGM</b>	Artisanal Small Scale Gold Mining
<b>DMLML</b>	Dr. Mathew Lukwiya Memorial Lecture
<b>EEB</b>	European Environmental Bureau
<b>FIA</b>	Financial Intelligence Authority
<b>FYM</b>	Free Your Mine
<b>GEF-SGP</b>	Global Environment Facility-Small Grant Program
<b>IEC</b>	Information, Education and Communication
<b>M &amp; E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MCH</b>	Maternal and Child Health
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>NEC</b>	National Executive Committee
<b>OSH</b>	Occupational Safety and Health
<b>SOPs</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>UHF</b>	Uganda Health Care Federation
<b>UNACOH</b>	Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health
<b>UNNGOF</b>	Uganda National NGO Forum
<b>URA</b>	Uganda Revenue Authority
<b>URSB</b>	Uganda Registration Service Bureau
<b>VHT</b>	Village Health Team
<b>WFPHA</b>	World Federation of Public Health Associations
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization



# Thank you

The Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF) appreciates your commitment to the UNNGOF vision and mission, and thus commend you for fulfilling your membership obligation for the year 2022.

We thank you so much and look forward to continued collaboration.

# Message

from  
**President,  
UNACOH**

**Prof. Robert  
K. Basaza**



I have the pleasure to congratulate our stakeholders within and outside Uganda for successfully going through the year 2022, notwithstanding the challenges each one may have experienced in their various endeavours. The year was characterized with hard economic situation not only in Uganda but across the world as a result of Ukraine and Russia war. The rise in prices for food, fuel and other commodities not only constrained living conditions but also the organizational operations. The Ebola epidemic was another challenge that caught the country by the storm. Fortunately, at the close of the year, the situation was under control with a few cases being registered. We applaud the Government of Uganda through Ministry of Health and development partners for their robust response towards cubing the spread of this infectious epidemic. Uganda has proved to be a leader in global health security of recent with impressive capacity to detect, prevent and respond to disease outbreaks including the fight against SARs, COVID19 and has proven instrumental in the fight against **“Ebola Sudan Virus”**.

The Board is glad to have held the 17th UNACOH General Meeting in March 2022 at UNACOH Plot of Land in Lukwanga, Sentema, Wakiso District, where the UNACOH Head Quarter is planned to be established. The new leadership of the Board was elected into office with the mandate to serve two years 2022/2023. This presented the opportunity to unveil the artistic impression of the Building

and the Fund-raising Strategy for the building to members. Other prominent activities that gave UNACOH international perspective by participation in the World Federation of Public Health Association, Global Public Health Week in April 2022, participation in the Tiira Summit, 3rd MinOSH conference and the Joint Annual Scientific Health Conference organised by Makerere University, UNACOH, WHO and other partners which was a great success.

Our Strategic Plan 2018-2022 has come to the end; no doubt a lot has been achieved over the past 5 years. However, there is need to conduct an evaluation of the previous strategic plan before we embark on developing the new Strategic Plan for the next 5 years (2023-2027). The Strategic Plan 2023-2027 should be ready by end of April, 2023. This would be a major deliverable of the National Executive Committee in the coming year, 2023.

UNACOH greatly appreciates our partners both local and international who worked with us or supported morally, materially or financially the various initiatives undertaken during the year. It is my humble appeal that we continue working with the same and even better spirit in the coming year. The Board of UNACOH acknowledges the immense contribution by the Secretariat and project staff. The interest by members of the Association to participation in the field activities and functions of UNACOH is greatly recognized.

My best and warmest wishes to you all for the Healthy and Prosperous year, 2023.

## from the Executive Director

Dr. D.K.  
Sekimpi



The year 2022 was a year after we witnessed a total 2-year lock down amidst hardships with high commodity prices. It looked an impossibility to survive. It required careful steering and maneuvering, but I am happy to note that, together we managed to bring the ship to the dock safely.

# Message

Then shortly struck the Ebola outbreak in Mubende and Kassanda districts in Central Uganda, the outbreak reached major cities including Kampala and Jinja.

Our health fraternity was once again robbed of numerous specialised cadres while on duty to save life and another lock down was also instituted in the 2 districts.

### What do we learn out of such outbreaks?

Line duty bearers should be encouraged to prioritise the protection of Health of the Health Care Workers by skilling frontline HCW with modern techniques of handling such infectious outbreaks whenever they occur, equip them with necessary Personal Protective Equipment/gear to be put on before handling any single suspected patient, establishment of multi-disciplinary emergency clinical teams to support the entire country in case of any outbreak, strengthen the laboratory system, especially the field laboratories through the introduction of mobile field vans for Ebola, train mobile surveillance teams in all districts across the country to detect, report and control its spread, carry out a countrywide assessment and find out where we are in regard to infection, prevention and control. Our condolences go to those who lost their dear ones.

**The activities carried out during the year can be summarised under strategic areas of UNACOH notably:-** Core organisation development, membership engagement, engagement with the public, engagement with the scientific community, engagement with the government and engagement with the international community.

### Core Organisational Development:

The National Executive Committee had an action plan for 2022 as part of the Strategic plan implementation. The implementation of the NEC

Action Plan started with the Bi-Ennual General Meeting held in March, 2022 where new leadership of the National Executive Committee was elected in compliance with the constitutions. At the same meeting, the fund raising drive for the construction of the UNACOH Home was officially launched with some cash and pledges that yielded close to 8 million Uganda shillings.

### Membership Engagement;

A total of 11 members were recruited during the year including one Life membership. Some members actively participated in the general meeting and other activities like the Joint Annual Scientific Health Conference co organised with Makerere University and 3rd. Dr. Mathew Lukwiya Memorial Lecture, Tiira Summit demonstration site to demonstrate to the world Free Your Mine Gold mining Technology using Borax technology instead of using mercury in collaboration with DIALOGOS, a Danish NGO, Busitema University and Busia District Local Government, 3rd. MinOSH conference sponsored by International Commission of Occupational Health (ICOH) among others. Much as the organisation would have wished to have as many members participate in the aforementioned activities/events, the financial constraint on the side of the organisation made it hard to happen. We greatly applaud all members who have continued to serve the organisation in various capacities on voluntary basis, which is a fundamental philosophy of UNACOH.

### Engagement with the scientific community:

UNACOH has over the years worked closely with the academia with a view of getting Research knowledge shared with the public action. One of the platforms through which UNACOH has achieved this objective has been through the Joint Annual Scientific Health Conference (JASHC) organised jointly in collaboration with Makerere University, College of Health Sciences and other partners such as WHO, Ministry of Health and several other academic institutions.



# Leadership and Governance

1

## Newly elected NEC members for the two year term 2022/2023 after an orientation meeting

**Prof. Robert Basaza**

President (2nd Term)

**Mrs. Christine Alura**

Vice President (1st Term)

**Dr. D.K. Sekimpi**

Ag. Executive Director (Ex-Officio)

**Dr. Victoria Mukasa**

Ag. Deputy Executive Director (Ex Officio)

**Mr. Kizito Hamidu**

Treasurer General (1st Term)

**Mr. Tigaiza Anorid**

Vice Treasurer General (1st Term)

**Dr. Cecilia Nawavvu**

Chair Scientific Committee (2nd Term)

**Mr. Paul Balitta**

Chair Publicity Committee (1st Term)

**Dr. Wilson Mubiru**

Chair Finance Committee (2nd Term)



### 1.1 The National Executive Committee

In March 2022, UNACOH held the 17th Bi-annual General Meeting at its Plot of land in Lukwanga Sentema Road, Wakiso District, where UNACOH Head Quarters is planned to be established. This was the maiden meeting at this venue since 2020 when the land was purchased. The meeting was attended by 59 members from 14 districts of Uganda.

The elections were conducted and the new office bearers of the National Executive Committee to serve for the two year Term 2022/2023 was put in place. Below is the full committee members comprising of both elected and Ex-officio members.

Other proceedings of the meeting included the discussion of the building plan. The Architect presented the Artistic impression of the building and the estimated cost of approx.

1.5 billion for a 3 storage building. At this point, the fund-raising for the building was officially commissioned and a committee put in place. A total of approximately 8 million was raised in cash and pledges to kick start the process. The meeting also approved the Life Membership as additional category of membership.

### 1.2 Membership

During the year, eleven (11) new members were recruited in UNACOH. Some UNACOH members actively participated in the organizing committee of the JASH Conference and also attended the conference. A sizeable number of UNACOH members presented papers during the JASH Conference held at Speke Resort Munyonyo. Some members by virtue of their technical expertise, participated in the implementation of some projects at national and district levels.

**Members of NEC (Incoming and outgoing) after a handover and orientation meeting at Guide Leisure Farm, Najeera, Kampala**

# Leadership and Governance

## 1.3 Mentorship

As part of on-going programme, UNACOH provided internship placement for university students from Kyambogo University and Makerere University. The areas of internship were diverse including procurement, Accounting and Finance, and Gender.



A Supervisor from Kyambogo University (L) after a meeting with the Student (C) undertaking a Procurement Course, having completed two months internship at UNACOH Secretariat



Year Two Students from Makerere University, School of Adult and Continuing Education, made a visit at UNACOH Secretariat to understand the organization Gender Policy and how Gender is mainstreamed in UNACOH operations, as a course work



# Leadership and Governance

**One of the NEC meetings held at the Secretariat during the year**



## 1.4 Secretariat

In August, 2022, Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF), of which UNACOH is a member, made a visit at UNACOH Secretariat as part of capacity building, to assess the institutional legal compliance.

The assessment was aimed at establishing whether the organization is fully compliant with different legal requirements in Uganda and whether there are potential legal gaps in the organization's systems and identifying ways in which they can be addressed. UNACOH got the report after the assessment, the gaps were noted action plan was drawn to address them.



**End of the year farewell moment at the Secretariat**



The Ag. Executive Director of UNACOH receiving useful materials from UNNGOF Programme Officer After the legal compliance assessment.

## 2.0

## Program Work

2.1  
JOINT ANNUAL  
SCIENTIFIC HEALTH  
CONFERENCE

This was the 28th UNACOH Annual Scientific Health Conference, 16th Makerere University Annual Scientific Health Conferences, the 3rd Min.OSH Conference and 20th Dr. Mathew Lukwiya Memorial Lecture, hence the name Joint Annual Scientific Health Conference (JASHC). The three days conference was held from 21-23 September, 2022 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala.

This year's Theme was:  
**Makerere @100: The Role of Health Professions Education in Strengthening Health systems, Research, Global and Community Health for Economic development.**

**Important to note, this time round it was a special event as a number of activities took place:**

1. Makerere University was celebrating 100 years of existence
2. 3rd. MinOSH International Conference was held in Uganda
3. 1st National Antimicrobial Resistance symposium was also held

**Activities Held:-**

1. Scientific Paper presentation (Both Oral and Poster presentations)
2. Exhibition

**Mode of Presentations:**

Parallel conference sessions were conducted on thematic topics. So participants were given an opportunity to attend sessions of their own interest.

**Attendance:**

The total attendance for the 3 days JASH conference was 311 participants both local and international.

**UNACOH at Exhibitions:**

UNACOH secured an exhibition slot for the entire 3 days of the Conference. Several literature about different projects UNACOH has implemented and also running were displayed. A visitors Book was displayed for those visiting the stall to register their credentials. **The main objective of UNACOH's participation in JASH Conference exhibitions over the years are two pronged:-**

• **Recruitment drive:** Exhibitions of this nature give UNACOH an opportunity to interface with potential new members both local and international given the diverse areas of profession of conference participants.

• **Awareness raising:** It also act as an avenue of disseminating research findings of different scientific studies UNACOH has carried over the years and also to displaying and distribute the various IEC materials developed by different projects UNACOH has developed over the years that can be used in awareness raising among conference participants of what UNACOH does among others.

Participants were showered with copies of Brochures about UNACOH aims and objectives, on how to become members, benefits of memberships and the currents projects UNACOH is implementing among others. Exhibition participants to the UNACOH stall were amazed to learn about the tremendous work UNACOH was doing over the years. A considerable number of them promised to write to UNACOH Secretariat seeking modalities on how to collaborate with UNACOH in different spheres.



# Program Work

## Individual opinions/perspectives of JASH Conference

**Dr. Erik Jørs**  
Member ICOH-MinOSH  
DIALOGOS, Denmark

In 2017, we started out a row of MinOSH International Conferences, with the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference being celebrated in Odense Denmark. This has since been replicated in 2019 on Bali Indonesia as 'The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Mining OSH and Energy in conjunction with The 13<sup>th</sup> Indonesian Occupational Medicine Updates, and now 2022 in Kampala, Uganda as the 3<sup>rd</sup> MinOSH International Conference co-organised with UNACOH's Annual Joint Scientific Health Conference (JASH Conference). In 2020 we co-organized ICOH sessions on the OCCUCON conference in Mumbai with the participation of 8 ICOH SC's. Apart from these physical and hybrid conferences with online participants as well we have organized several virtual short conferences with great success.

Our experience to pass on is that it is of great value to organize SC MinOSH conferences in mining countries were not many international conferences takes place. The information shared by international and national presenters is of interest to many participants and by reaching out to a broader audience more people take interest in the topic and eventually start to take part in promoting OHS in mining and becomes members of ICOH

and MinOSH. As you can see from the nice 'Impressions' below even a 'Mining Sector Health and Safety Working Group' is started as a spin-off from the JASH Conference and the MinOSH Conference in Kampala.

A key to success is also to involve other organizations in the conference preparation and participation. In this case we managed to co-organize with ISSA Mining, ISSA Chemical Industry and the Danish NGO Dialogos. All had presenters on the conference and with Dialogos several of us ISSA and MinOSH members managed to participate in their 3 day visit to gold mining areas in the Eastern part of Uganda (Tiira Summit in Busia District) to see how mercury free gold mining was practiced among small scale miners there.

Lastly to note is that by co-organizing our conferences and link up to existing conferences makes them much more easy to overcome and much cheaper to be involved in for MinOSH and gives an international flavor to the conference in favor of the national organizers. A win-win situation!

With these few words I leave you to the reflections of our local ICOH member Dr. Deogratias Sekimpi:





**A group photo  
at JASH  
Conference ,  
Speke Resort  
Munyonyo,  
Kampala**

# Program Work



## MY IMPRESSIONS OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL MinOSH CONFERENCE, KAMPALA, UGANDA 22 SEPTEMBER 2022

**Dr Deogratias Kaheeru  
Sekimpi,**  
Member ICOH-MinOSH  
JASH Conference 2022  
Organising Committee

## History:

In 2017, Uganda was represented in Odense, Denmark at the 1<sup>st</sup> MinOSH International Conference, both by OSH professionals and miners. Uganda missed representation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> MinOSH International Conference, in Bali, Indonesia, 2019. It was therefore a privilege when the MinOSH Committee requested Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health (UNACOH) to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> MinOSH International Conference. The request was received in 2021, giving UNACOH one year to prepare. UNACOH however requested MinOSH to have the 3<sup>rd</sup> MinOSH International Conference to be co-organised with UNACOH's

Annual Joint Scientific Health Conference (JASH Conference), organized in collaboration with Makerere University College of Health Science (MakCHS) and World Health Organization (Uganda Country Office). The JASH Conference is held in September each year.

The JASH Conference 2022 was part of Makerere University 100 years celebration.

### Impressions:

1. The first impression was the vote of confidence the ICOH MinOSH Committee, trusting UNACOH and Uganda to host the Conference.

# Program Work

2. The second impression was trust that the Organising Committee in Uganda would deliver the Conference, Covid-19, distance and technological challenges notwithstanding.
3. The third impression was the organizational capacity of the MinOSH Committee leadership, with determination and patience in light of limitations and delays on the Ugandan side. We quickly got ISSA Mining on-board, and later ISSA Chemical Industry.
4. The fourth impression was that members of MinOSH from across the world were able to identify with the 3rd MinOSH International Conference preparations and to support them.
5. The fifth impression was that Makerere University College of Health Science fully embraced the MinOSH Conference and the JASH Conference 2022 Organising Committee had a constructive working relationship with the 3rd MinOSH International Conference Organising Committee for a full year, from 2021 to 2022.
6. The sixth impression was that despite small hitches here and there, it was possible to deliver a real time hybrid (physical and online) MinOSH Conference, dovetailing smoothly into the 16th JASH Conference (2022).
7. The seventh impression is that participation in the 3rd MinOSH International Conference was really international both physically in Kampala and online. Bolivia, Denmark, DRC, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Philippines, USA, UK, Uganda were among countries with representatives.
8. The eighth impression was that both the JASH Conference and the MinOSH Conference were successful because of the mutual support.
9. Uganda is starting a Mining Sector Health and Safety Working Group as a spin-off from the JASH Conference and the MinOSH Conference.

## 2.2

## Alcohol Control Project

*One of the Project stakeholders receiving a Certificate of Appreciation at the Project Exit meeting in Masindi District*



**The overall goal of the project was to improve health and socio-economic wellbeing of the communities in the project area /scope.**

**The most significant results include the following:-**

- More than the target population received alcohol messages and consequently awareness of alcohol as hindrance to development beyond the project scope. Messages went further than the area and population meant for the project coverage. This was partly because of the multiplier and ripple effect; VHTs continuously increased in numbers and individually or collectively sensitized the community members about the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption. The method of using media and IEC materials also contributed to this. Evidence is derived from project reports and similar records.
- The impact of the project that has resulted into reduced absenteeism and improved productivity at workplace is a testimony by managers of Kakira Sugar works in Jinja district and Kinyara Sugar works in Masindi district. Alcohol regulations in targeted workplaces i.e. Kakira and Kinyara Sugar industries were upgraded and alcohol messages emphasized to employees resulting into this. This is evidenced by reports from these work places.
- The District and Sub County networks/committees which will continue to monitor and control alcohol related problems. The result is the commitment of civil and political leaders to continue addressing alcohol issues in all government programs.



## A group photo of key stakeholders at Exit meeting of the Alcohol Control Project in Masindi District



This is an assurance of continuity and sustainability of the program in these areas. Already some Sub Counties have a budget for this program and VHT's are supported in their community work. Transport is provided and Police engages with the community members to enforce the opening and closing hours of bars in some administrative areas. In these areas, bars now open not earlier than 2:00p.m. and close not later than 11:00 p.m. The example is Karujubu Division and Budongo Sub County in Masindi District.

- The observable positive change in schools enrolment demonstrated by reduced alcohol carried by learners and teachers in schools. This is attributed to the development and formation of school clubs in selected schools to continue with sensitization of the minors and youth about the dangers of alcohol.

It is an assurance that the population will delay to initiate alcohol consumption. This is reported by school managers and reflected in ASA report: "73.2% of the respondents had not been asked to buy alcohol by parents/guardians in the previous six months..." "...one of the restrictions here is not to ask children to buy alcohol." Male respondent, Bugembe, Jinja District.

- The government measures to control alcohol in place. This is evidenced by the development and approval of alcohol regulations for the two districts as By-laws and Ordinances. This will enable the reduction in alcohol problems through regulation of alcohol manufacture, sale, and involvement of minors including restrictions on opening and closing hours of drinking places.

### Lessons Learnt

- Establishment of good working relationship with local leaders and community fraternity basing on accountability and maintained focus on the project objectives. We avoided conflicts and antagonism resulting into the program running smoothly through out.
- Planning and implementation using a bottom-top and top-bottom approach has eased the intervention through combined efforts. We involved leaders at community and community members in all processes including in planning and execution of activities.
- Involvement of district local authorities in promoting project work voluntarily shows that the government appreciates the alcohol control project.

# Case Story

"..... Before UNACOH came to Masindi district to implement alcohol control project, I was a village drunkard and I used to drink silly. I was never able to meet my responsibilities as a lady. I had no husband, so I used to fall in love with whoever comes by. But when UNACOH came in, I was chosen among the victims following getting counselling from a VHT, I decided to accept the counselling as I kept on attending UNACOH's workshops and trainings. It was a big challenge to me because I was still drinking alcohol.

But when I was chosen as a VHT, I got ashamed in continuing to drink, I gradually left drinking slowly and eventually stopped completely. Now I am more responsible and smart, I can now save money and invest in development projects through joining saving groups in my village. I thank UNACOH so much for coming to Masindi district....." **Sylvia, VHT Miirya Sub County, Masindi District.**

"..... I used to earn Ugx 150,000= per week. Out of it I could use Ugx 70,000 every week on consuming alcohol. I had also started visiting witch doctors for seeking good fortune, had good time with women, so I had no development at all. But after attending community sensitization meetings organised by VHTs in my village, I gradually started reducing a bit. I joined village saving groups formed by youth and I started saving slowly and I started doing small projects that could benefit me like poultry farming on small scale. As I continued attending workshops by VHTs on alcohol harm, I stopped drinking and I am now okay. When my friends saw me progressing well, it also motivated them to quit drinking. I am now full of praise to VHTs and UNACOH for opening my eyes and I see a great change in myself....."

**Richard, Member Bigando village, Miirya Sub County, Masindi District.**

# Alcohol Control Project



## Sustainability

Although the project has come to an end, the following will serve to sustain the program:

- The empowered project players with capacity/ knowledge to be used even after the project. Different project stakeholders can now confidently explain how alcohol causes harm to the community.
- There is now enough IEC materials for use in the project area. These will serve as reference and aids during continued community sensitization campaigns.
- The Alcohol control regulations are in place which will serve as deterrent

measures.

- The Sub County and District networks are in place and functional. These are administrative committees meant to monitor and oversee the program and support its implementation.
- The model villages which will serve as examples are established. Other villages will emulate the examples from them.
- The school clubs to continue with sensitization of learners are in place. As a result, young people are likely to delay alcohol initiation or not to start at all.

## However;

- Follow up on the District Alcohol Ordinances at the Solicitor General Office in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs is required. If this is not done, implementation might be difficult and all the efforts, resources and time wasted.
- Model villages and school clubs still need regular monitoring and capacitation in order to be more effective.
- Rolling out the sensitization campaigns to wider communities to prevent contamination of the project scope is necessary.
- A more systematic evaluation of the entire project work would greatly provide for a better project statistical report.



# Apiary Project

## 2.3

### Narrative report on Apiary (Bee Keeping Project 2) in Nakaseke district.

*With funding from Stay Foundation-Germany through LATEK, UNACOH received a seed funding for capacity building of 100 farmers in Nakaseke district.*



A meeting with project Parish Leaders during a monitoring visit

*The project is for 1 year (starting June 2022-July 2023) and is targeting at development of farmers transforming their active poor lives to wealth leaving poverty by end of 2023.*

#### Project objectives included;

1. Training 100 beneficiaries in bee keeping with hands on skills like hive construction and setting up an apiary farm
2. Creating vibrant and active #StayChampion groups.

In September 2022, the project carried out a first training of 100 farmers in apiary from the four Parishes of Kito subcounty these included; Kito, Kivumu, Kassiso and Bugambakimu parishes. The two days training covered in the first day, the theory of bee keeping including; the bee life cycle, classification, bee products, setting up a bee farm and most importantly the practical session which involved bee hive construction. The second day was a practical session for addressing farmer concerns related to hive construction and setting up an apiary farm. Farmers were then given a day to apply the skills learnt in hive construction. By end of October 2022, a total of 490 hives had been constructed from the seed materials provided by LATEK and these were distributed to farmers who had cleared membership of Ugx. sh. 10,000 under Kito Apiculture Association. By early November 2022, all farmers had received an average of 4 hives each.

Two monthly monitoring visits followed the training for support supervision by UNACOH. These indicated that some farmers had constructed more hives (20) on top of the 490 hives received making a total of 510 hives. However, some farmers had not put-up hives in the farms due to some being incomplete and others fearing that they might be stolen.

The monitoring visits followed a two days refresher training, conducted on 9-10th of December 2022, to address some of the challenges captured during the monitoring visits but also to emphasize some of the known bee farming challenges like black ant attacks, poor hive hanging, poor farm management such as bushy farms as well as tackling challenges not captured in the monitoring visits this was attended by 78 farmers. By end of December a total of 11 hives had been added (totalling to 541) and 120 of these had been colonized.





## 2.4

## Free Your Mine Project 2025

The year started with great news of the approval for the renewal of FYM 2025 by CISU. This came at a time when FYM Phase 1 had ended in July 2021. The project has a duration of 3 years, running from January 2022 to December, 2024 in the 3 Districts of Busia, Buhweju and Kassanda.

### Key accomplishments during the year:

- The Baseline Survey was conducted and completed titled “Assessment of Factors Influencing Uptake and Compliance to Mercury Free Gold Extraction and Health, Safety and Environment Practices Among Artisanal Small Scale Gold Miners in



Dialogos team meeting Buhweju District Local Government Officials during the FYM Project Monitoring visit in September, 2022

three Districts (Buhweju, Busia and Kassanda) in Uganda” The project team is working on the publication.

- **Tiira Summit:** A 2 days event in which Mercury-Free Gold extraction (with Borax) technology was demonstrated for the delegates and a Symposium that was held at Busitema University, Busia District that culminated into signing of the TIIRA SUMMIT PAPER. 57 delegates both local and international including representatives United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and European Environment Bureau (EEB) attended the Tiira summit in Busia District.
- **M&E visit** by the Dialogos Team to the three project districts and demonstration sites was conducted.
- **Master Trainers:** 2 Master Trainers from Philippine and 3 from Bolivia trained 12 miners in Busia, 13 in Buhweju and 13 in Kassanda; altogether 38 miners were trained
- Kassanda District trained a total 75 miners in Gravity Concentration Method by the close of the year, 2022. The training was facilitated by a Local Master Trainer, Monica Anyede from Busia District.
- **Quarterly Joint meetings:** Three Quarterly stakeholders’ meetings were held in Kampala that attracted District and National stakeholders.
- The implementation of ESIA in Buhweju following NEMA’s approval. By the close of the year, data had been collected and was being analysed.
- Tiira Summit and JASHC/MinOSH conference were held.
- Renovation of different aspects of the demonstration facilities at Katenga, Kagaba and lifting the face of Tiira demonstration facility in preparation for Tiira Summit were carried out.

## 2.5

# Mercury Free Gold Mining Project in Amudat District



**Project beneficiaries, UNACOH and EEB representative during a monitoring visit in Amudat District**

**The project started in February 2022 as a continuation of the UNDP GEF Small Grants Project that closed in March 2022.**

**The project aims at contributing to the Implementation of the Minamata Convention on mercury, with a focus on developing strategies for phasing out mercury added products and on reducing mercury use in ASGMs. The project is funded by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB).**

## Main Achievements

- Trained 41 (12 females+29 males) District leaders in mercury toxicology at Amudat District
- Trained 71 (31 females+40 males) leaders in Kabyonsia, Sub County.
- Met 20 ASGMs leaders and imparted knowledge on mercury toxicology, management and sustainability of mercury- free demonstration sites.
- Training of 60 ASGMs by fellow Trainer of Trainers in two mining sites in mercury free technique in gold extraction at Kabyonsia demonstration site in Amudat District.
- M&E visit by Rina from EEB and Lydia from UNACOH to the project sites; Kabyonsia and Chewala in Lokales Sub County, Amudat District.

The Amudat District Project Officer also provided support for miner to miner trainings. During the meeting, the miners were briefed about the significance of having a By-Law against mercury use in ASGMs. They were also encouraged to adhere to the Constitution of the Association so as to avoid the Miner differences that may come up while executing their duties.

The two Project Officials visited the project sites on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 and had a meeting with the miners and ASGM leaders. Miners requested the project key stakeholders to extend the project life span so that the sensitization and awareness campaign against mercury use in mines reaches more people. They also requested for installation of more demonstration machines in and surrounding communities for easy access. They expressed concern that the water sources in their community are unprotected and exposed to mercury pollution. They requested support to have protected water sources for domestic use and improved sanitation



# 2.6

**Tiira Summit, a sub project of the FYM project aim was to provide a platform to practically demonstrate mercury free gold mining technique to stakeholders from the mining sector all over the world. The method is healthy and environmentally safe. In addition, it leads to high gold yield recovery compared to the mercury process. The summit as a platform was also to facilitate discussions with various stakeholders on how to increase the uptake of the non-mercury gold mining technologies in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining areas not only Uganda but in all mining Countries.**

## Tiira Summit Project

**Tiira Summit at Busitema University on 20th September, 2022**



UNACOH and its partner Dialogos were very eager to show case this health and environmentally safe method to the whole world through expert miners from the Philippines and the locally trained miners in Tiira Sub county which is one of the many mining communities in Uganda. It was believed that after this knowledge sharing event, there would be a buy-in from stakeholders in relation to mercury and gold mining.

### **The following were the objectives of the Tiira Summit:**

- Local miners learn and demonstrate the mercury free direct smelting method to local, national and international stakeholders including representatives from UNEP.
- Direct smelting will be reorganized among

stakeholders and incorporated into global strategies to stop the use of mercury.

- Cooperation between local, national and international partners, build capacity locally and in the civil society organizations involved.

### **The Stake Holders' Meeting:**

The stakeholders' meeting was held on the 20th September, 2022 in Busitema University. It was attended by 65 participants and discussions were made. The main goal of this stakeholders' meeting was to sign an M.O.U with Busitema University to conduct further research on ASGM activities, train miners and produce new ideas and innovations into the mining sector as an established institution.





**A Practical demonstration of Mercury Free Gold processing technique by trained Miners during Tiira Summit**

## Conclusion

As small-scale gold mining sector continues to grow worldwide, there is a pressing need for adapting technologies that will reduce and eventually eliminate mercury use in line with the Minamata Convention, 2013. However, changing miners' mind set from the known method of mercury use to the unknown and new method of mercury free technology is not a simple task that can be done in a short period but this goes along way and dependent on the dedication of all stake holders right from the international, national and local/ community. Changing people's perception will only

come with continuous awareness raising by government in partnership with Civil Society Organizations and miners. Also training more miners as Trainer of Trainers could also help miners to appreciate and adapt the technology. To crown it all, participants emphasized that stakeholders recognize the above technologies and incorporate it into global strategies to stop mercury use. A position paper was written to be endorsed by all participants.

## 2.7

The Rotary Club of Kampala North, Uganda, District 9211 in collaboration with Rotary Club of Blue Bell, Philadelphia, USA District 7430, has over the years taken the Bull by the Horns to address the challenges of Maternal and Child Mortality (especially Neonatal Mortality) in Uganda through three (3) serials. The Rotary Foundation (TRF) funded Global Grant projects (MCH1, MCH2 and now MCH3 projects: GG: 1410507, GG: 1526442, and GG: 1868175 respectively). Overall, the projects have the goal of reducing Maternal and Neonatal Mortality though filling the skills gaps of Midwives and Doctors attending to mothers and Newborn babies.



A UNACOH staff at the back (Mr. Eliot Musasizi) interacting with Health Workers at Bugamba HCiv, Rwampara District during a data collection visit in April, 2022

## MCH 3, M&amp;E PROJECT

The participating Health facilities include: -

No	Health Facility	District
01.	Namalembe Health Center II (HCII)	Bugweri
02.	Namugwale Health Center III (HCIII)	Iganga
03.	St. Stephen's Hospital-Mperere	Kampala
04.	Kolonyi Hospital	Mblae
05.	Kinoni Health Center IV (HCIV)	Rwampara
06.	Bugamba Health Center IV (HCIV)	Rwampara

Objectives of the assignment are: -

1. To carry out a Baseline survey on agreed indicators.
2. To serially collect data on agreed indicators at quarterly intervals from participating Health Facilities and Medical Training Institutions.
3. To serially collate the data on quarterly basis, even if the reporting may be less frequent for some indicators.
4. To make quarterly reports to the M&E Officer of Rotary Club of Kampala North, project committee (For presentation to the project committee and Rotary Club of Kampala North Board).
5. Submit an End of project M&E Report.

## UNACOH's Role

Since November, 2019, UNACOH has been implementing a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) assignment on the Maternal and Child Health Project (MCH3) under Global Grant No: GG:1868175 Reducing Maternal and Neo Natal Mortality in Uganda in the selected districts of Kampala, Mbale, Iganga, Bugweri and Rwampara.

Under the project Titled: Baseline Survey and Periodic Monitoring of Maternal and Child Health Education Project (MCH3 under Rotary Club of Kampala North)

In conclusion, the project is ongoing until 2023 and UNACOH has undertaken these tasks and submitted quarterly reports in time as agreed upon, despite challenges of COVID19 Pandemic disruptions.

# ADVOCATING FOR A MODEL VILLAGES AND TOWNS

# 2.8



**Dr. Cecilia Nawavvu**  
Chair, Scientific  
Committee

**Report on key  
UNACOH-Rotary  
Club of Kyengera  
collaborative  
activities for the  
year 2022**

UNACOH continued exploring collaborative activities with the Rotary Club of Kyengera in Kyengera Town Council, Wakiso District. The main areas of focus were:

Participating in the Global Public Health Week (GPHW) of 4th—8th April 2022 under the Theme Public Health Matters: building the new future. The GPHW is an initiative of the World Federation of Public Health Associations that aims at bringing together institutions, communities, and Public Health actors from around the world to recognize the contributions

of Public Health and its workforce. Member Public Health Associations, as well as non-profit organizations were called upon to host activities in their respective countries/communities.

Together with the Rotary Club of Kyengera, we mobilized communities for an international public panel discussion that took place on 7th April 2022. The Theme of that day was **Strengthening Public Health Associations and communities**. Under the Sub-Theme Public Health Matters: **“Building the new future through collaborative health initiatives”**



## ADVOCATING FOR A MODEL VILLAGES AND TOWNS

The Panellists discussed how to prevent Malaria in their localities. We mobilized representative discussants from Buddo Junior School (10 participants), Trinity College Nabbingo (10 participants), Mugwanya Summit College (10 participants), St. Aloysious Primary School Kyengera, Kyengera Market, Kyengera Shop owners/Traders. There was also an online global community presence that took part in the day's Panel discussion.

At the end of the Panel discussion event, all participants were urged to pick workable lessons for follow up implementation in their respective environments.

During the year 2022 and again in partnership with the Rotary Club of Kyengera, we



accomplished another activity of skilling and empowering of 10 youths, children of the Mutima Women's group of Nabbingo, Tega Cell, Kyengera Town Council in Wakiso District. The youths were skilled courtesy of the Rotary Club of Kyengera and after the skilling they were assisted to erect a factory structure for a Briquettes making machine, a generator, and pallets for drying and storage of the processed briquettes.

UNACOH and Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Kyengera participated in the official launch of the Briquettes making Factory on 6th May 2022.

This Briquettes making Factory was the result of one of **UNACOH NEC** Action Plan initiative of mobilizing and engaging existing resources to improve their health conditions, including socioeconomic conditions, using community-based solutions.

# UNACOH/Rotary Club of Kampala North

## 2.9

## embark on Tree Planting Project in Kyegegwa District in partnership with Hapuuyo Catholic Parish and Hapuuyo Town Council

### Introduction:

UNACOH has over the years identified stakeholders to work with on key thematic areas that are critical in nature to the economic development of the country but attract less attention /funding of key actors. **Some of the key projects that have been implemented by UNACOH over the years include:-**

- Nutrition and Early Childhood Development Project funded by the World Bank and Government of Uganda in the districts of Masaka, Kabarole, Kamwenge and Kyenjojo.
- Pesticide Use, Health and Environment Project funded by a Danish NGO- DIALOGOS in the districts of Pallisa, Budaka, Kumi, Kapchorwa, Bugiri, Kayunga, Wakiso, Sembabule, Rakai, Ntungamo, Bushenyi, Gulu, Kitgum, Adjumani and Nebbi.
- Alcohol Control Project at workplace and communities Project funded by a Swedish NGO NTO Movement in the districts of Jinja and Masindi.
- Free your Mine Project currently being implemented in the districts of Busia, Amudat, Kassanda, and Buhweju.
- Apiary/Bee Keeping Project funded by LATEK Movement in the district of Nakaseke.
- Maternal and Child Health (MCH3) Monitoring and Evaluation Project in the districts of Kampala, Iganga, Bugweri, Mbale and Rwampara respectively with funding from Rotary Club of Kampala North.
- And now Tree Planting Project in the district of Kyegegwa with funding drawn from Rotary Club of Kampala North.

Thus UNACOH's work is guided by the slogan of **“Think Globally and Act Locally”**.



District leaders, Rotary ,UNACOH and Community Representatives at the Tree Planting Luanch in Kyegegwa District

The Tree Planting Project is collaboration including Hapuuyo Catholic Parish, Hapuuyo Town Council , Rotary Club of Kampala North , UNACOH, Kyegegwa District Local Government and of course the people of Kyegegwa District are key stakeholders and beneficiaries with technical support from Rotary Club of Kampala North and UNACOH.



## Key stakeholder meeting during the launch of Tree Planting Project in Kyegegwa District

Originally with low population, Kyegegwa District has seen significant migration from mainly South Western Uganda in the last 20 years, causing significant increase in population and therefore increased demand for land and other natural resources such as timber, fire wood and charcoal. As a result of the above, the agricultural activities have intensified and the forest cover especially in the northern corridor from South of Misiizi River, has significantly reduced.

The signature rocks that were previously largely concealed by forest cover have progressively been exposed as the tree cover reduced. Inevitably drier spells have been experienced and crop failure increased. So, currently



with a population of over 300,000, the season of March- July, 2022, saw the maize, beans and ground nut crops (grain and cereals) whither signalling not only the reduced mono income on agriculture but also signalling impending famine in the area. The inevitable medium to long term solution is the recovery of the tree cover so as to facilitate more rain fall in the district.

This therefore warranted for immediate/short term intervention in massive tree planting mainly indigenous fruit and wood trees with limited planting of foreign species such as eucalyptus. Fortunately, Kyegegwa district has a lot of indigenous tree species some of which are medicinal in nature.

UNACOH, Rotary Club of Kampala North. Kyegegwa District Local Government the communities to access and distribute the tree seedlings. Hapuuyo Catholic Parish and Hapuuyo Town Council Local Government. Furthermore, Schools, Churches, Mosques, Youth, Women groups, Opinion leaders Cultural institutions, Local Council leadership among others were mobilized and encouraged to actively take part on afforestation seriously not only as a method of climate resilience and mitigation but also as an economic venture and to turn the economic woes of the people in a short and medium term into an income generating activity. Whereas the aim was mainly for greening (reforesting) largely bare area in Kyegegwa District, the trees will



# 3.0 Financing and Compliance



also serve nutritional, commercial and ornamental roles as the case may be.

So far a total of **53,000** Tree seedlings of various types were provided by UNCHR (30,000) and local Conservation NGO, (23,000).

The Tree seedling planting project/ campaign has been widely embraced by the different stakeholders in the district and a number of calls for more supply of tree seedlings by stakeholders in the district have been received.

The above project is carried out in the national spirit of **FOR GOD AND OUR COUNTRY** in line with UNACOH Motto of “**HEALTH FOR ALL AND BY ALL.**”

I assumed office as Treasurer General of UNACOH National Executive Committee in March, 2022, after the General Assembly elections. Previously, I was the Vice Treasurer General.

It was good news at the start of the year following the renewal of FYM Project by Dialogos for more three (3) years, the approval of the Alcohol Control Project bridge year 2022 by IOGT NTO Movement, Sweden and becoming on board of EEB project to support the continuation of Amudati project .The UNACOH Secretariat operations and program activities were financed basically by project grants. There was also momentum in fund-raising for UNACOH Building and minimal membership collections. At the start the of the year, there were five running projects which included ; the Alcohol Control Project, Free Your Mine Project, funded by Dialogos, MCH Project, funded by Rotary Club of Kampala North, Mercury Free Project -Amudat , funded by EEB, and Apiary Project, funded by Latek Stay Alliance.

The other source of funding was the fund-raising for the UNACOH Building. The fund-raising efforts mainly through member contributions yielded a total of UGX 15 Million in cash and pledges by the close of the year.

This was the final year of the Alcohol

Control Project and it actually closed at the end of the year. The Project funded by the IOGT NTO Movement , Sweden had run for 12 years since 2012 in the two Districts of Masindi and Jinja.

It is important to note that the organization lost close to UGX 65 Million as a result of exchange rate translations. This was attributed to the global currency market where most of the currencies depreciated against the US Dollar, a situation which was caused by the Ukraine Viz Russia War. To cope with the situation, a number of strategies had to be employed, which included but not limited to budget reallocations, combining activities where feasible and reducing administration costs like lowering internet subscription bundles and reducing rented office space.

Regarding compliance, the organization had complied and continues to comply with all regulatory requirements of various bodies including URA filling of returns and paying taxes as fall due, filling returns for National NGO Bureau, URSB, FIA and NITAU. In addition, UNACOH has valid MOUs with all Districts where the different project activities are being implemented.

By the close of the year, the external audit for the Alcohol Control Project had been conducted by Kalinda and Associates, Certified Auditors. The organization audit and audit of other projects was expected to be conducted in the first 4 months of 2023.

Mr. Kizito Hamidu - Treasurer General



# Annual Report 2022

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