

UNACOH

“ Health for All and By All”

UGANDA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (UNACOH)



Annual Report 2020
4th
Edition



OUR

VISION

An informed, healthy and economically productive Ugandan population

MISSION

To promote a positive health culture among the Ugandan population and influence healthy public policies through promoting the principles of Primary Health Care (PHC)

➤ **VALUES:** | Integrity | Accountability | Transparency | Gender Sensitivity

Annual Report

2020

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Edition

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“Health for All and By All”

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Foreword

Prof. Robert Basaza
President, UNACOH

The Year 2020

was unique given the global health challenge of COVID 19 Pandemic that not only claimed lives of people but also devastated the social economic situation of people all over the World.

This year the current UNACOH National Executive (NEC) was elected into office February, 2020. The NEC was unable to hold the four quarterly meetings in 2020 due to the COVID 19 lock down and other restrictions that characterized the period. It however, was able to hold some meetings including the orientation of the new NEC members.

The major milestone of NEC in the year was the coming up with a road map in form of an action plan to be actualized in 2021. The Plan is in line with UNACOH Strategic Plan 2018-2022, and Health Sector Development plan of the Ministry of Health.

UNACOH Program activities were disrupted by COVID 19 impact, to the extent of halting some project activities. In spite of the situation, some projects went on well with strict observance of the Ministry of Health COVID 19 Standard Operating Procedure's (SOPs) at all levels of

implementation.

I wish to extend my appreciation to the UNACOH National Executive Committee, members of staff and entire membership across the country for their individual and collective effort in furthering UNACOH Mission. As for our partners, we are grateful for the financial and material support for the UNACOH interventions last year, and the previous years. Our work without doubt has made positive impact in the lives of communities that we serve.

I look forward to successful coming year

2020

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Annual Report

Acknowledgement

Dr. D.K. Sekimpi
Ag. Executive Director



In February, 2020,
we had the UNACOH 15th General Assembly where
the current National Executive Committee was duly

elected for the two year term. It is led by Professor Robert Basaza.

Uganda and the whole World went into panic when COVID 19 Pandemic was declared by WHO in March, 2020. The health systems were put to the test and indeed many countries were found wanting including Uganda. As 2020 came to a close, we had realized the full impact of COVID 19 upon us. We commiserate with those that have lost their loved ones due to the disease.

The COVID 19 affected our operations as UNACOH in different ways both at the center and in the field. The lockdown hampered movements not only within the country but also for our international partners. Consequently, the Dialogos funded Tiira Summit Project was put on halt. The Joint Annual Scientific Health Conference (JASHC) and Dr. Matthew Lukwiya Memorial Lecture too were not held in 2020 because of the situation.

However, in spite of the pandemic negative effects, some program activities went on well as we adhered to the SOPs and adapted new methods of work like holding virtual zoom meetings and encouraging working at home for the staff whenever possible.

On another positive note, UNACOH

through its Uganda Healthcare Federation (UHF) membership, got a World Bank funded Project to train private Health Service Providers on the management of COVID 19 cases in selected health centers in Uganda. In addition, some UNACOH members in their individual capacities were actively involved in various COVID 19 control efforts like participating in training organized by different partners, and some members being appointed to serve the National and District Task Forces. Another great milestone, was the acquisition of land for the UNACOH Home in Lukwanga, Sentema road Wakiso District. This was through fund-raising from members, well-wishers and partners. The struggle is now to mobilize for construction hopeful that someday, we shall be in our long awaited home.

I acknowledge the contribution of UNACOH National Executive Committee, Chaired by the President. Special thanks go to our staff for the tireless effort made in achieving individual work targets. Great thanks go to our partners, whose support contributed immensely to our success during the year. Most of all we are grateful to the entire UNACOH membership who make the Association alive and active.

List of *Acronyms*

ACAO	Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
ASGM	Artisanal Small Scale Gold Mining
DFA	District Farmers Association
FIA	Financial Intelligence Authority
FYM	Free Your Mine
GEF-SGP	Global Environment Facility-Small Grant Program
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
NEC	National Executive Committee
PHE	Pesticides Use, Health and Environment
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
UHF	Uganda Health Care Federation
UNACOH	Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health
UNFFE	Uganda National Farmers Federation
URA	Uganda Revenue Authority
URSB	Uganda Registration Service Bureau
WHO	World Health Organization

1. Governance And Administration

1.1 General Assembly

On the 15th of February, 2020 UNACOH held its 16th General Assembly at Furaha Restaurant, Kampala. It was attended by 64 participants that included members from across the country, Staff and invited resource persons. The key matters of discussion were; Progress on the Resource Mobilization Strategy, Training by a consultant on Donor Mapping as part of the Resource Mobilization Strategy, Presentation of UNACOH Revised Human Resource Policy draft, a Report from the Ag. Executive Director, Financial Report by the Treasurer General, and concluded with the elections of the National Executive Committee.

Dr. Patrick Kadama, the immediate Past President had served two full terms (4 years) and therefore the position of the President was vacant. Other positions that were vacant and due for election included the Chair Scientific Committee, Chair



AGM group photo at Furaha Restaurant, Kampala

Finance Committee, and Chair Editorial Committee

The elections of the National Execution Committee (2020-2021) were presided over by Prof. Joseph Konde-Lule, one of the Past Presidents of UNACOH.

The results from the elections are shown in the table:

UNACOH NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2020-2021

Name	Position
Prof. Robert Basaza	President
Mrs. Odella Monica	Vice President
Mrs. Max Walusimbi	Treasurer General
Mr. Kizito Hamidu	Vice Treasurer General
Dr. Cecilia Nawavvu	Chair Scientific Committee
Dr. Mubiru Wilson	Chair Finance
Mr. Jackson Were	Chair Editorial
Mr. Tebandeke Grace	Chair Publicity

1.2 Secretariat

By the end of 2020, UNACOH had a total of 20 members of staff. This number includes the Administrative staff, Program staff, and Volunteers. As part of systems strengthening approach, staff performance appraisal process was undertaken for the 2019 in the 1st quarter of 2020. The majority of staff had their appraisals done with the exceptions of a few who had not completed the process as COVID 19 set in. The monthly physical staff meetings had to stop as a result of COVID 19 restrictions, however small group meetings of a few people with reasonable social distancing continued to take place, and one to one communication between staff and their supervisors.

1.3 National Executive Committee

The NEC under the Chairmanship of Prof. Robert Basaza, was able to hold two meetings instead of four meetings, still for the reason of COVID 19. At its maiden meeting in office held on 21st October, 2020 which was also the induction /Handover meeting, the team first made a visit to UNACOH Plot /Land in Lukwanga, Sentema Wakiso District. Thereafter, the team convened at Guide Leisure Farm in Najeera, Kiira. At this meeting, NEC came up with an Action Plan for 2021 in line with the Strategic Plan 2018-2022. Highlights of the action plan include; Membership Recruitment Drive, Resource Mobilization, Health activism, Research, Pilot community interventions and newsletters among others.

A simple handover ceremony was conducted whereby the out-going members handed over files to the in-coming ones.



Outgoing Chair, Editorial Committee -Mr. David Gusongoirye handing over to incoming Mr. Jackson Were



The new NEC Members orientation meeting at Guide Leisure Farm, Najeera

NEC MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF UNACOH PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Treasurer General's monitoring of UNACOH Projects

Executive summary

Between 2nd September and 7th October, 2020, the Treasurer General of UNACOH, Ms. Maxentia Walusimbi on behalf of NEC, carried out a monitoring visit in the company of Mr. Mukisa John, the Administrative Secretary of UNACOH. The visit was made to selected districts of Uganda where UNACOH Projects had been running for some time.

The sample districts included:

- Kamwenge District for the Pesticide Use, Health and Environment (PHE) project.
- Buhweju District for the Free Your Mine Project
- Bushenyi District for the PHE Project
- Kapchorwa District for the PHE Project
- Bugiri District for the PHE Project
- Masindi District for the Alcohol Control Project and the PHE Project

The purpose of the visit was to reach the ground to find out how those projects were performing, to learn about the working relationships between the UNACOH as an Institution, the UNACOH

project teams and the respective Districts, to generally assess the impact of these interventions in the said districts and to discuss the sustainability plans in case the UNACOH funds project life ended.

We held several meetings with relevant District officials including District Production officers, Agricultural officers, Farmers Associations' representatives, Miners Associations representatives and Alcohol project representatives. We also visited some model farmers in Kapchorwa and Bugiri Districts.

The projects generally performed well. With the PHE Project, Trainings, Radio Talk shows all aimed at sensitizing farmers, district officials and agro input dealers about the safe use and handling of pesticides. However, they experienced some challenges which included: Insufficient funds to cover whole district and also motivate trainers, PPE items were not affordable by most of the farmers, and delayed funds from

UNACOH in some districts. Disposal of used containers was also still a problem in some/most districts, fake farm inputs, limited time for radio talk shows and the lock down due to COVID-19 were some of the major challenges.

For the Alcohol project in Masindi, control of Alcohol consumption started with sensitizing of workers of Kinyara Sugar works. Then it covered two sub-counties where by-laws were discussed and passed. The by-laws were good and as a result, they were introduced to the district where they were widely discussed and later, a district-wide ordinance had been passed two weeks before our visit.

However, the project encountered challenges which included finding alternative source of income for alcohol brewers and sellers ready to change. Since the By-laws could not cover all areas, people would cross to the neighboring sub-counties which were not affected by the by-law, to drink. Even after passing the district ordinance, some people still cross to the

Governance And Administration

neighboring district of Nakasongola to drink.

Despite the challenges, this intervention resulted into a lot of positive changes. First of all, it was an eye opener to the district stakeholders and the communities that uncontrolled alcohol brewing and consumption was a danger to the health of the people, their productivity and to the environment. Bars remained closed during morning hours and were opening

early in the evening. They began to close before midnight thus allowing people to go to work the following morning. Some alcohol sale points were closed and child labor reduced. The District ordinance on the control of alcohol brewing and consumption was a major outcome of the intervention.

Generally, UNACOH's intervention in the safe pesticide use, alcohol control and mercury free gold mining in the selected

districts was highly commended. The respective UNACOH project teams were specifically commended for being very good team players and the work well done. But the sustainability part was not clear because it was mainly rotating on more funding which was not yet assured. But for the mining Project, Government, as an implementer through its structures, needed to come in to control mercury smuggling into the country.



Officials of Bugiri DFA taking the UNACOH team around showing their work

ACAO Masindi (L) and Focal Person (R) after meeting the UNACOH Finance team

2. Programme Activities

There were four actively running projects during the year namely; *PHE Project, Alcohol Project, and the two Mercury Free Gold Mining Projects.*

2.1 PHE PROJECT

This was the final year of the Pesticide Use, Health and Environment (PHE) Project, supported by Dialogos, for last the 10 years since 2010. The project has had tremendous impact in not only strengthening the institutional capacity of UNACOH over the years but also transforming communities in the awareness about safe pesticide use, and has contributed greatly to the pool of research in the area of Pesticide use, health and environment in Uganda.

Phase 3 of the project (2017-2020) had three objectives, and was implemented in 17 districts across the country. Below are the objectives and the results achieved.

Objective 1: To create a public accessible data bank of knowledge on integrated pest management (IPM), treatment of pesticide poisoning and food safety for the consumers in Uganda.

- A virtual databank was created on the UNACOH's website and regularly updated with different information materials developed by the project and links to other relevant resources. This initiative has resulted in an increased number of internet

users visiting UNACOH's website.

- Pesticide residue levels were determined in a sample of community water sources across the country. This was done through GC-MS/MS and LC-MS/MS analysis under the Pesticide Residue Laboratory of the Directorate of Government Analytical Laboratory (under Ministry of Internal Affairs). A total of 25 different active ingredients of pesticides were detected, the herbicide Glyphosate being in the highest concentration levels.
- Pesticide residue levels were determined in vegetables (tomato and cabbage) sampled from farms and markets across the country. A total of 8 different active ingredients of pesticides were detected, Mancozeb being in highest concentration levels.
- Perceptions of tomato consumers were documented through a cross sectional survey across the country.

Objective 2: To raise awareness nationally and globally, on prevention of pesticide poisoning and their negative environmental effects.

- The knowledge from the project continues

to be shared nationally, regionally and globally through different platforms, specifically in the quarter 9th, sharing on pesticide safety was realised through 1000 copies of the project newsletter, 10 live radio talk shows and educative audio jingles playing 300+ times in local dialects across the country, project's facebook and twitter accounts, public lecture/keynote speech at a Green Action week on ecological land use and management, through Uganda Farmers' Common Voice Platform, 10,000+ flyers/brochures given to farmers during community sensitization, week-long promotion of IPM methods such as biopesticides and sex Pheromone traps in fruit producing communities in partnership with a private company.

- Local Government leaderships continue to spearhead the project's work by taking decisions and monitoring implementation through the District Pesticide Committees, as panelists in radio talk shows, and involvement in field activities. Specifically in this quarter, public sensitisation led by members of the district pesticide committee and district farmer association was conducted in about 4 districts.
- Project research work was presented at the national Joint Annual Scientific Health

Programme Activities

Conference (2019) through an oral and poster presentation to over 600 participants.

Objective 3: To advocate for national mainstreaming of sound pesticide management and prevention of poisonings by different CSOs, Private and Public stakeholders.

- Relevant laws (The Occupational Safety and Health Act, 2006; The National Drug Policy and Authority Act, Chap. 206; Uganda National Bureau of Standards Act, Cap 327; Public Health Act, Cap 281; Agricultural Chemicals Control Act, 2006; Constitution of the Republic of Uganda; Local Government Act, Cap. 243; The National Environment Act, 2019; and The Water Act, Cap. 152) were reviewed, different policy loopholes identified and being used to lobby different duty bearers and policy makers in the central and local government.
- Community discussion fora in form of District Pesticide Committees were

established and meet on a quarterly basis to draw plans for project activities and review implementation process.

- Different civil society organisations and private companies have taken interest and engaged the project in joint promotion of public health and sustainable farming. For instance, PELUM Uganda (an umbrella association of different CSOs promoting agroecology) engaged UNACOH as keynote speakers at two farmer learning fares in eastern and central regions of the country. In addition, two other CSOs; the Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) and the Center for Food and Adequate Living Rights (CEFROHT) engaged UNACOH as a panelist in during a national level experts meeting on glyphosate. UNACOH also signed an MOU with a private company, SUKUMA Ltd, to promote non-synthetic IPM methods such as biopesticides and traps for pests. More still, UNACOH signed a Letter of Agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (UN FAO) in Uganda to undertake an Occupational Safety and Health Risk Assessment study in Uganda's Agricultural Sector.
- Local Governments continue to participate in and guide the direction of project field activities and a number of them have made commendable work in integrating the pesticide safety promotion in their work. About 3 lower local governments

in eastern region of the country have developed byelaws to allow them regulate pesticide use and trade in their respective communities. One of the Local Governments in the central region continues to undertake registration and monthly reporting of acute pesticide poisoning across 30 local health care facilities.

- A proposal for a National Poison Information Centre was developed in consultation with relevant government, private and civil society stakeholders. This proposal has been taken up by Ministry of Internal Affairs which is taking concrete steps towards securing government funding for establishment of this center.
- Sixteen (16) academic institutions specializing in public health and paramedics were targeted for support with information materials developed by the project and are in use. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Department of Crop Protection requested and was supported with 300 copies of the 'training manual on responsible pesticide use'.
- A position paper on 'Pesticides, food and water safety' was developed. It was submitted to MAAIF and in the coming quarters it will be further shared with Parliament and other relevant Government Ministries, Departments and Authorities for collective action.



Ms. Prudence Ayebare, Policy and Research Officer, UNFFE, receiving a certificate of appreciation from the UNACOH President and Executive Director at PHE Project closing Workshop

2.2 ALCOHOL CONTROL PROJECT

This was the ninth year of the Alcohol control Project, supported by IOGT NTO Movement, Sweden since 2012. The project has since been implemented in the two Districts of Masindi and Jinja within selected sub-counties

Despite the COVID 19 Pandemic effect on the project implementation, there are significant results that stood out. Among these, was the final approval of the Jinja District Alcohol Control Ordinance by the Ministry of Local Government through the Solicitor General's Office.

The increased inclusion of alcohol control activities in government activities: This year local governments in the Project area have not only initiated alcohol control activities but also contributed monetary and human resource to support alcohol control activities.

The 18.61% reduction in risky alcohol consumption patterns in Masindi: This could be attributed to the sensitizations for awareness creation, implementation of alcohol control by-laws and other regulations strengthened by the Presidential directive on closure of bars)

Project Performance viz expected outcomes

Outcome 1: Reduced risky alcohol consumption patterns among communities in the project area

During 2020, risky alcohol consumption patterns in the project areas in Masindi reduced by 18.61% (according to the 2020 end of

year project evaluation). Consequently, these communities engaged in more productive activities led to improved livelihoods.

.....in comparison with last year, people have reduced both the frequency and amount of alcohol consumed, only a few people are observed drinking before 3:00pm. Most people are now spending more time in their gardens in the last agricultural season we harvested more maize and beans. This has not only increased household incomes but also improved food security..." **Local Council One Chairperson, Kisiita Ward Masindi District.**

These results were achieved by the method of working with village health teams that were able to continue the alcohol sensitization campaigns despite the COVID-19 restrictions

and the implementation of alcohol control by-laws in the area.

Outcome 2: Legal restrictions on density of alcohol outlets, accessibility to minors and availability are in place in the project area

In Jinja District, the final draft Jinja District Local Government Alcohol Control Ordinance was approved by the Ministry of Local Government and the Solicitor General's Office. By the end of the year, the final amendments to the draft had been made and the process of gazetting the final Jinja District Alcohol Control ordinance initiated. This ordinance will provide comprehensive legal restrictions on the availability of alcohol, density of alcohol outlets and accessibility of alcohol to minors in the District.

In Masindi District, the final draft Masindi



Alcohol community sensitization
in Nyakarongo Masindi District

Programme Activities

District Local Government Alcohol Control Ordinance was endorsed at District level by all the legally required stakeholders. It was then submitted to Attorney General's office through the Ministry of Local Government to ensure it is consistent with the National Constitution. The content is similar to the Jinja Ordinance. In both project areas, the District authorities have initiated the process of popularising and disseminating these regulations. This was done using newspaper articles, press releases and conferences. This increased awareness and support for implementation of these regulations in the project area.

“.....The community is now aware of the alcohol control regulations in our area, the trading centre mayor is now finding it easy to implement these regulations because people know about them...” Community member Kibamba village, Pakanyi Sub County, Masindi District

Outcome 3: Alcohol issues are included in the government activities through the established alcohol control platforms in the project area by 2021

Sub-county and District alcohol control platforms in the project area have included alcohol control issues across all local government departments. In Masindi, Karujubu Division Agriculture department which is currently implementing a food security project funded by Uganda Government under the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund; has incorporated alcohol control training for farmers and communities in food security promotion campaigns. In Jinja the Fisheries department of Walukuba Masese Division, has incorporated alcohol control training for fisher folk. This is intended to improve livelihoods with better financial decisions.

The Jinja District Local Government took a lead role in organizing the first Jinja District Alcohol Control Conference. The district contributed to the conference costs which demonstrated commitment to alcohol control. This conference provided a platform for dissemination of the Jinja District Alcohol Control Ordinance and built support amongst the administrative and political leadership for implementation of alcohol control regulations.

Karujubu Division local government has added alcohol control as one of the budget areas for funding under community development for the financial year 2020/2021. With this, the local government provides transport allowances for their staff to implement alcohol control activities. This further demonstrates commitment to alcohol control.

Outcome 4: UNACOH is able to serve communities, report to donors and implement alcohol control programs.

Following participation in the Global Alcohol Policy Conference 2020, the project team was able to acquire more knowledge on the current global strategies. This ensured the project advocacy initiatives were aligned to the World Health Organisation's SAFER evidence based guidance. During this conference, UNACOH also shared her experiences in the control of alcohol harm among communities with other international organizations addressing alcohol harm.



District Project Stakeholder (R) receiving an appreciation award from the UNACOH President (L) at a District Project Conference in Jinja

2.3 Mercury Free Gold Mining Projects

2.3.1 Free Your Mine Project

The two year Project, supported by Dialogos, Denmark was in its second year of implementation. The Project aims at stopping Mercury pollution from Artisanal Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) and to improve the organization of Civil Society in the two mining communities of Busia and Buhweju. *The main activities carried out during the year included the following:*

- On 1st October 2020, the FYM team held a meeting with the district local officials in Busia to prepare how to resume the project

activities that had been halted due to the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown.

- UNACOH in collaboration with the district Education Office held training workshops for school teachers, women miner groups, youth miner groups, miners and communities in Busia district on mercury toxicology in the 3rd week of October 2020. In the teacher training workshop, 25 teachers were trained and issued certificates.
- In addition to the training for teachers,

UNACOH was able to raise awareness on mercury toxicology and Covid-19 to 100 community members and miners in Tiira, Busitema and Amonikakinei. The information was well received; the communities and miners were concerned and expressed interest to eliminate mercury from artisanal gold processing and to promote the mercury-free gold processing method.

- IEC materials on mercury toxicology developed by the FYM team in UNACOH together with their partner in Denmark were distributed to the trainees to help them in dissemination of information about mercury.
- Capacity redevelopment meetings were held with the youth and women associations to help them strengthen the organizations and it was agreed that the organizations would go ahead and register at different levels of registration.
- A deliberate effort was made to skill the women miners in Tiira, Amonikakinei and Busitema in the Mercury Free Gold Processing method.
- A meeting to discuss the current management of the facility and the future sustainability of the project were held in Busia.

One of the Community sensation training on Mercury toxicology in Buhweju District



Positive and negative issues that have arisen during this project quarter

Positive

- The May - July 2020 saw the lifting of the 4 months lockdown (March – June 2020) that had been put in place due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The end to the lock down allowed the FYM project team to resume implementing the project activities in Buhweju then Busia District, although under strict observance of Standard Operational Procedures (SoPs).
- Willingness by the District Inspector of Schools (DIS) together with the School teachers who were trained to develop a framework to integrate mercury toxicology awareness in their school activities, at both primary and secondary schools levels. Training on mercury toxicology will among other things be aided by the skits and poems that the teachers developed as well as the IEC materials provided to teachers during the training.
- Interest by miners, and especially women miner groups to learn and practice the gravity concentration method of gold processing with borax.
- The teachers in Busia agreed to adopt sports as an extracurricular activity in schools as a way of raising awareness on mercury toxicology.
- The willingness of local stakeholders in Busia district and line ministries (Minerals Development, Geological Survey and Mines Department - Ministry of Energy and , and the Mineral Police Protection Unit – Ministry

of Internal Affairs) to support the project and work closely with UNACOH FYM team to eliminate mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector.

- The presence of IEC materials that will help in raising awareness on mercury poisoning to a wide range of categories of people in the project areas.

Negative

- Covid-19 has continued to spread and its impacts have become more pronounced than ever before increasing the risks of exposure to project staff and partners. FYM has had ensure strict observance of Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) that require limited numbers of people to congregate at a time as a measure to prevent the spread of Coronavirus infection has affected the numbers of people reached with the message on mercury toxicology in both project area.
- There have been challenges of securing rich gold ore to use during training and practicing at the demonstration site as a result of high rains leading to slow operation.
- Continued closure of the mines in Buhweju district has affected the operations of the demonstration site in Katenga.
- As a result of COVID-19, there are costs that have continued to persist thereby forcing the project to incur additional costs without any excuse for example, the

project has continued to purchase masks, temperature gun and sanitizers, short of which we would not be able to secure permission to carry out trainings.

- Finally towards the end of 2020, Uganda entered into a very politically volatile and a highly unpredictable period, ahead of the National General Elections in January, 2021. This means that the FYM team had to take a lot of caution in exercise of its duties in order to avoid any possible incidents of violence.

Citations and small individual stories concerning the project:

“I am experiencing the problems associated with mercury which you have said here, and that is forgetfulness, I started using mercury when I was 16 years old. We should therefore, stop using mercury”
Mudoti Wabwire Fredrick – miner, Shinyanja Sub-parish, Busitema, Busua

“I have discovered a lot about mercury today, thank you for the information! My children and colleagues will also get a leaf from me, indeed mercury is a poison”
Emam Bahati Samuel, Community member, Nambayo Village, Busitema - Busia District

Mercury Free Gold Mining Projects



Women Miners being trained in
Mercury Free Gold Processing
Method at Tiira site



UNACOH Team Meeting Impact
Facility Partners at Tiira MF
ASGM Processing Plant

2.3.2 Stakeholder Capacity Strengthening for Reduction in Utilization of Mercury Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector in Amudat District Project

The Project was approved in March, 2020 by UNDP Global Environment Facility – Small Grants Program. The two year project aims at strengthening the capacities of stakeholders in the ASGM sector to effectively reduce utilization of mercury in gold mining. The project did not start until September, 2020 due to COVID 19 Lockdown which took longer for boarder districts like Amudat.

The project has established a working relationship with local leaders in Amudat district and Artisanal and Small-Scale Miner groups. Based on this relationship implementation of planned project activities has started. Particularly, data needed for documenting current mercury use practices, storage supply and emissions in the ASGM sector has been collected, local leaders engaged

to address mercury use in the ASGM sector and sites for establishment of mercury free alternatives assessed. The demonstration equipment for mercury free gold processing was purchased, and was awaiting transportation to sites in Karita, Amudat in the new year 2021.



UNACOH team meeting Project Stakeholders in Amudati

3. Financial Position And Compliance



“Health for All and By All”

Objectives of the Club

To mobilize savings from members to accumulate a capital pool that can be invested in capital or money market or any other safe investment option that earns a good return for the members

To act as platform that brings members together to advance the cause of UNACOH

Who is eligible?

Only members and staff of UNACOH

Obligations

Making a monthly savings of UGX 50,000/= plus UGX 10,000/= (contribution to administrative costs)

A commitment to make savings consistently and attending the Club Annual General Meetings

The major sources of finance for the Association are, Membership fees, general contributions from members, fund-raising and Grants. As a result of COVID 19, efforts to mobilize resources were made difficult as people's incomes were greatly affected. In particular, membership fees collection went down. The fund-raising for some activities like the Joint Annual Scientific Conference (JASHC), and Dr. Mathew Lukwiya Memorial Lecture were not done. Some

projects were put on hold as result of international travel restrictions during the year. However, despite COVID 19 impact, many of the programs that were on-going, continued to run with the adaption of the new normal working environment.

The Annual Budget of 2020 was UGX 1.420 Billion for the program and administration activities. This budget was financed by 71% as per the summary report below.

Summary of Financial Resources received and utilization

INCOME SOURCE	PROJECT	AMOUNT (UGX)
Membership Fess	-	2,250,000
Dialogos	PHE Project	247,055,582
IOGT NTO Movement	ALC Project	161,829,751
Dialogos	FYM Project	462,510,900
UNDP- GEF-SGP	Mercury Free	92,125,000
Other sources	Other Activities	48,564,234
Total		1,014,335,467
Less:		
EXPENDITURE		
Program activities		426,234,088
Capital Investment		90,716,500
Administration		482,451,974
Total		999,402,562
Surplus		14,932,905

As regards Government regulatory Compliance, UNACOH complied with the filling of **URA Returns, URSB Returns, Uganda NGO Bureau returns, and Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA)** returns. In addition, UNACOH fully complied with specific donor requirements.

DELIVERABLES (2017-2020)

RESEARCH / DOCUMENTATION



4 RESEARCH STUDIES CONDUCTED
4 (studies on food, water, consumer, pesticide sellers)



16 ARTICLES PUBLISHED

AWARENESS CREATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING



1237
Pupils sensitized



5059
COMMUNITY FARMERS IN 15 DISTRICTS were sensitized



68 Radio talk shows in 9 local languages in 14 districts



8 RADIO SPOT MESSAGES played 2814 times in 9 local languages on 14 radio stations



6 PUBLIC LECTURES in 6 academic institutions to 1014 students and lecturers



7 Expos/farmer exhibitions (7 districts)



4 Newsletters (3,000+ copies)



6 CONFERENCES (Both National and international)



889 Local Government leaders sensitized through 15 district conferences



TRAININGS for **545** farmers in 17 districts and **256** health workers in 30 health facilities were conducted



IEC MATERIALS
2 booklets (2,000+ copies)
1 flyer (10,000+ copies)
3 posters (2,000+ copies)
2 educative videos

LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY



62 DISTRICT PESTICIDE COMMITTEE MEETINGS Held in 13 districts



1 Position paper on Pesticide use and handling in Uganda

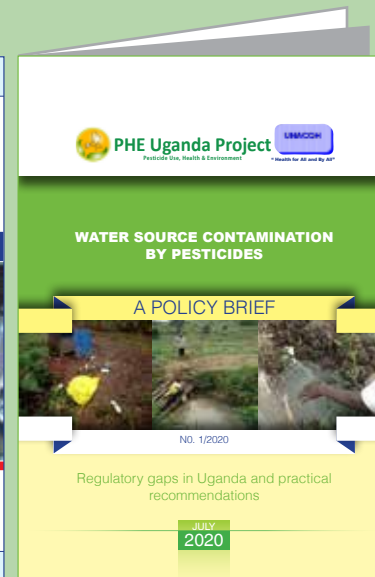


3 POLICY BRIEFS

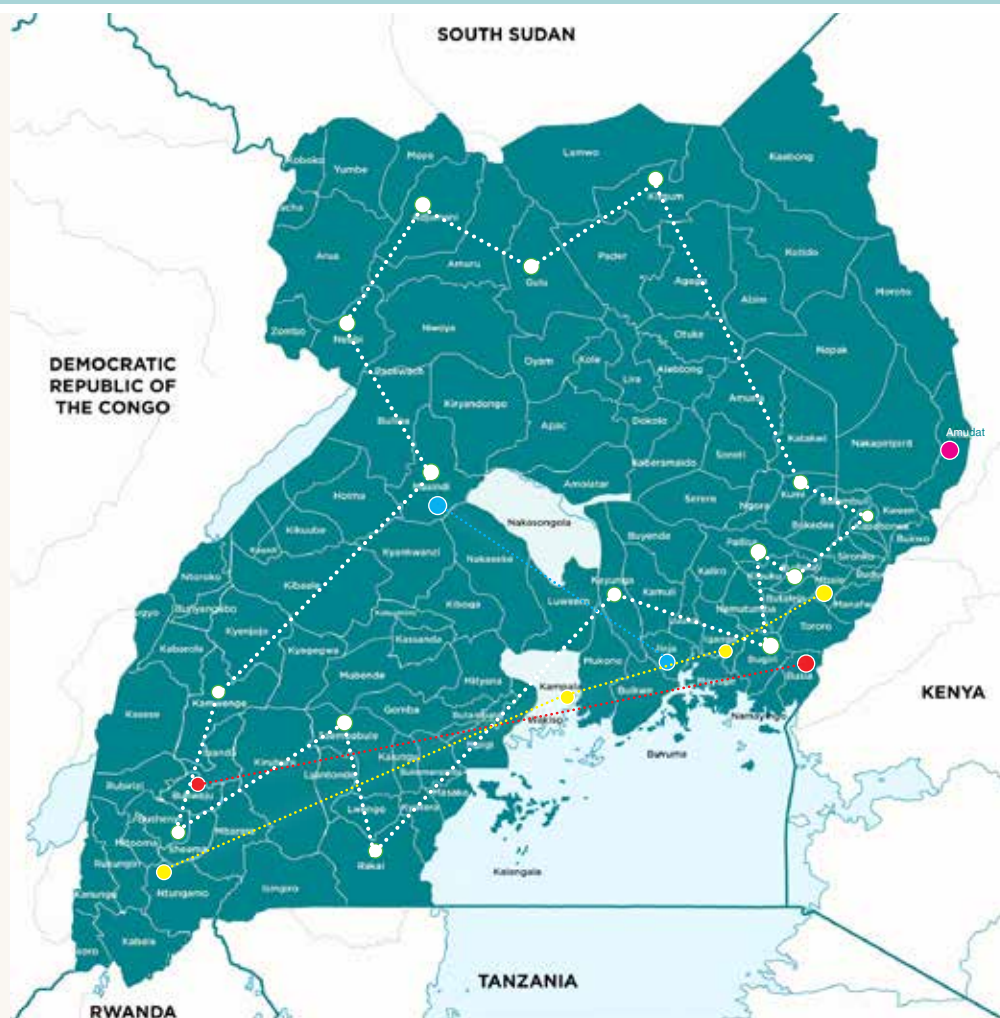


1 Blue print of a National Poison Information Center

POLICY BRIEFS



GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE OF INTERVENTIONS ACROSS THE COUNTY



KEY

- PHE Project
 1. Adjumani
 2. Budaka
 3. Bugiri
 4. Bushenyi
 5. Gulu
 6. Kamwenge
 7. Kapchorwa
 8. Kayunga
 9. Kitgum
 10. Kumi
 11. Masindi
 12. Nebbi
 13. Ntungamo
 14. Pallisa
 15. Rakai
 16. Sembabule
 17. Wakiso

- Alcohol Control Project
 1. Jinja
 2. Masindi

- Free Your Mine Project
 1. Buhweju
 2. Busia

- Reducing Mercury Use Project
 1. Amudat

- Monitoring and Evaluation Project
 1. Bugweri
 2. Iganga
 3. Kampala
 4. Mbale
 5. Rwampara

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