"Health for All and By All"

UGANDA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (UNACOH)

Annual Report 2021
Let us join hands in the fundraising drive to realise this great milestone in the history of UNACOHOH
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At the start of the year, the National Executive Committee (NEC) drew an Action Plan, spearheaded by the committee members, basing on the Strategic Plan 2018-2022. The committee was able to follow through the implementation of the Action Plan at its quarterly meetings during the year. The key matters of the Action Plan were, Projects development, Membership development drive and improving visibility of the organization. A review at the end of the year showed that significant strides had been made on each of these fronts. I hasten to mention that a number of project proposals were written, some of these stood high chances of success.

As part of policy, the NEC unanimously passed a resolution to include Life Membership as an additional membership category to be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration.

I am happy to report that at the end the year, four (4) members were paid up under life membership.

I wish to thank the Executive Committee Members for the team work, voluntarism and commitment exhibited in implementing the NEC Action Plan. Thanks to the Secretariat for the administrative support given to NEC and program work during the year. I greatly appreciate our National and International partners for the moral and financial support rendered to UNACOH operations.

I wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous year 2022.
The year started on a good note as UNACOH made the most significant contribution in the control of COVID 19 pandemic through training of over 2000 mainly Private Sector Health Care Workers across the country in COVID 19 Case Management.

This contributed greatly to the private health facilities response during the second wave of COVID 19 epidemic in Uganda. UNACOH also continued the effort to highlight the Health of Health care Workers in the COVID 19 context, and beyond. The 19th Dr. Mathew Lukwiya Memorial Lecture (DMLML) was held in September 2021 and was relevant to the OSH threat to Health Care Workers during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Following the relaxation of the COVID 19 lockdown, the operations at the UNACOH Secretariat and project work slowly returned to normal. We embraced the new normal by carrying out most of the activities through virtual means, mainly through Zoom both for internal meetings like NEC meetings, and for external meetings.

There were a number of activities carried out successfully despite the disruptions of COVID 19, among these are: UNACOH Board training by PELUM Uganda, the 19th Dr. Mathew Lukwiya Memorial Lecture, the quarterly meetings of NEC, the project implementation of the Alcohol Control Project and Free Your Mine Project, the training of healthcare workers in the prevention and Case Management of COVID 19, the Social entrepreneurship through the Apiary project, and the MCH M & E project. In line with organization development, UNACOH land development was at the forefront in the discussions. The preliminary architectural design of the UNACOH building is available. In addition, efforts have been made in line with projects development by individual members of NEC and as taskforces and ad hoc committees. Some of the projects in the pipeline include; Kyengera Town Council and Kyegegwa District Community projects.

UNACOH has continued to strengthen its partnership with long standing partners like IOGT NTO Movement, Dialogos, World Federation of Public Health Association (WFPHA) and Government line ministries and local governments. New networks and partnerships have been created, including: European Environment Bureau (EEB), Zero Mercury, Gudie University, Rotary Club of Kyengera, Kyengera Town Council, among others.

UNACOH has been an active member of UNNGOF, AFPHA and WFPHA.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the UNACOH National Executive Committee for dedicated voluntary service to the organization. Great thanks to our partners both local and international for supporting our various project interventions at national and sub-national levels. Also, thanks go to the members of staff and volunteers for a job well done, in spite of the challenges encountered during the year.

The struggle continues.
<table>
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<th>Acronym</th>
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<td>AFPHA</td>
<td>African Federation of Public Health Associations</td>
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<td>ASGM</td>
<td>Artisanal Small Scale Gold Mining</td>
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<td>European Environmental Bureau</td>
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<td>Financial Intelligence Authority</td>
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<td>FYM</td>
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<td>GEF-SGP</td>
<td>Global Environment Facility-Small Grant Program</td>
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<td>IEC</td>
<td>Information, Education and Communication</td>
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<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<td>NEC</td>
<td>National Executive Committee</td>
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<td>Occupational Safety and Health</td>
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<td>Standard Operating Procedures</td>
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<td>Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health</td>
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<td>URA</td>
<td>Uganda Revenue Authority</td>
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<td>URSB</td>
<td>Uganda Registration Service Bureau</td>
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<td>VHT</td>
<td>Village Health Team</td>
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<td>WFPHA</td>
<td>World Federation of Public Health Associations</td>
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<td>World Health Organization</td>
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1.1 The National Executive Committee was in its second year of its first term of office following the elections in 2020. The Committee was not active in its first year 2020 because of the disruptions caused by COVID 19 pandemic. However, in 2021, the Committee drew up an Action Plan and was able to deliver on it significantly by the end of the year 2021.

The key milestones of the Action plan included; Writing and winning significant projects of at least above 100,000 USD, Membership recruitment, increasing visibility of UNACOH through editorial and publicity, contributing to national policy through policy briefs among others. As mentioned above, the performance on each of these activities was quite commendable. This is well elaborated in other sections of this report.

The National Executive Committee successfully conducted its quarterly meetings throughout the year, with full attendance of members at most of the meetings. The committee provided oversight and guidance on Secretariat’s operations and project implementation.

1.2 Board Training

This was a two days training in Governance and Leadership for the UNACOH Board members including management.

The training was sponsored by PELUM
Uganda. The training was by Zoom, conducted by 2 consultants Ms. Miriam and Mr. Jack. Musaati hired by PELUM Uganda.

This was one of the capacity building trainings that PELUM Uganda organises for its affiliate members. The UNACOH PHE Project Staff had previously participated in other trainings organized by PELUM Uganda. UNACOH has been a member of PELUM Uganda since 2019.

The training was held on 2 consecutive Saturdays 17th and 24th July, 2021. The training started with self-introductions and sharing of expectations by the participants. The facilitators noted that their intention was to see that they add value to the UNACOH Board in the area of Governance and Leadership.

1.3 Secretariat

The Secretariat had 20 staff members including 5 volunteers. One staff by the names of Ms. Mercy Wanyana left for better job opportunity. Mercy was a Project Officer attached to the Alcohol Control Project. She was replaced by Ms. Primah Musiime, who had been attached to the same project as a Volunteers for over 3 years. The Secretariat supported NEC and taskforce activities together with the various on-going project implementation. The organization developed a Human Resources Manual, approved by the National Executive Committee. Staff appraisal for the year ended 2020 was done and concluded in the first quarter of 2021. Likewise, the staff appraisal for 2021 is on-going and will be finalized in the first quarter of 2022.

1.4 Membership

During the year, eleven (11) new members were recruited in UNACOH. Due to COVID 19 situation, there were less physical membership engagements. However, during the Alcohol Control Project Conference and 19th Dr. Mathew Lukwiya Memorial Lecture, which ware a hybrid of physical and Zoom meeting, a big number of members participated, mainly on the Zoom Platform.
Opening remarks from UNACOH

Dr. D K Sekimpi, the Acting Executive Director of UNACOH welcomed members to the DMLML. He added that UNACOH was established in 1987 as a public health NGO, the motto that says “Health for All”, and said that the dots on the logo represent the many people on earth. He further added that for one to work, they have to be alive and healthy and they should be having knowledge about health so as to work towards development. He said that UNACOH deals with Community Occupational Health and Environmental Health. He gave a brief history of the DMLML.

The 19th Dr. Mathew Lukwiya Memorial Lecture

The Lecture was held in conjunction with the 3rd Alcohol Control Project Conference. Both events had physical and virtual participation. The Alcohol Control Project was the main funder of these two activities.
A brief history of the DMLML

- 2001 WR Dr. Oladapo Walker proposed Annual DMLML (as a permanent memorial to Health Care Workers who die in line of duty – as a perpetual “project” between UNACOH and WHO; he also proposed a Dr Mathew Lukwiya Scholarship) which should be followed up.

- 2002 1st DMLML, and it has been held annually thereafter apart from 2020 due to COVID 19.

- From 2010 MakCHS, UNACOH and WHO have had Annual DMLML as part of JASH Conference, joined by UMA and IUIU Medical School in 2019.

- 21st October, 2021 is 19th DMLML, and are glad to have so far, the youngest DMLM Lecturer, Dr Dorothy Ngajilo, a WHO Consultant on Health of health care workers, also a neighbour from Tanzania.

Remarks from Makerere University College of Health Sciences.

Prof. Kaija thanked all members that attended the DMLML and he emphasized empathy and hard work towards treating patients as a key aspect while training students in health-related courses. Makerere University is an institution that does research, training, and community service. Dr. Mathew Lukwiya died at the forefront of saving humanity. The University is redirecting its budget frameworks to train students using a blended approach to ensure that protection of the individuals that are at the frontline is prioritized.

- Protection of people at the forefront of fighting pandemics.
- Formation of institutional task forces to address health challenges.
- Pre-clinical and clinical training of students and provision of protective gear.
- Research in treatment and vaccine production and the aftermaths of a disease.

Remarks from Uganda Medical Association (UMA)

Dr. Richard Idro thanked UNACOH and all the other partners for organizing the DMLML to honor the fallen Health Care Workers that have died in service. He added that engagements are ongoing with the Ministry of Health to prioritize health and safety of Health Care Workers in the health facilities in Uganda.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation from the DMLML Guest Speaker
Dr. Dorothy Ngajilo
Board Certified Occupational Medicine physician
Occupational Health Program WHO Headquarter Geneva

Health workers around the world are at the forefront in the daily battle to contain diseases and save lives while risking their own health and sometimes their lives. The untimely passing of Dr. Mathew Lukwiya and many other Health Care Workers is a painful reminder that we need to take care of our Health Care Workers. At least 115,000 Health Care Workers have died from COVID-19. COVID-19 pandemic has drawn attention to the importance of the protection of health workers, emphasizing the need to ensure that the Occupational Health and Safety of Health Workers is a priority.

“The University of Innovations for Transformational Impact in Africa”
The Alcohol Control Project operating in Jinja and Masindi Districts for the past 10 years, is in its final year (end line) come December 2022. It has covered 7 Sub-counties including 6 Town Councils/Divisions in the Project area with aim of reducing Alcohol consumption in the communities and work places especially the sugar industries through various activities. By end of 2021, the Project recorded the risky Alcohol consumption reduction of 16% from baseline of 25.6%.

The two district alcohol control ordinances developed for Masindi and Jinja district have provisions for reducing the availability of alcohol by limiting the hours on the sale of alcohol, reducing the density of outlets and accessibility to the minors in the project area.

In Masindi District, the final draft of the alcohol control ordinance was endorsed at the District level and it is in the process of being submitted to the solicitor General’s Office to ensure that it does not conflict with the National Constitution. The progress was affected by the lockdown and COVID 19 effects including National Political Elections held in January 2021.

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

Both Sub County and District alcohol platforms included alcohol issues across all local government departments. In Masindi and Jinja Districts, the alcohol control Sub County committees were functional. The committees took a lead role in supervising the activities of the Village Health Teams who were implementing the alcohol control campaigns.
Outcome 4: UNACOH is able to serve communities, report to donors and implement alcohol control programs.

Alcohol Control Project Conference 2021 together with Annual UNACOH conference took place. The project team including the invited participants from both Jinja and Masindi Districts respectively were able to acquire more knowledge and share experiences and achievements made during the year. This ensured project advocacy initiatives.

The most significant results in 2021

In Jinja district, Submission of the final draft of Jinja District Local Government Alcohol Control Ordinance was approved by the Ministry of Local Government and presented to the Solicitor General Office. The progress is encouraging. In Masindi District, the final draft of the alcohol control ordinance was endorsed at the district level, and it was submitted to the attorney General’s Office to ensure that it does not contradict the National Constitution. The progress was delayed by the lockdown and the political elections process, but district administrators are following it up.

Lessons Learnt

The lessons learnt included the following: The willingness of local leaders to work with VHT’s and use of IEC materials to emphasize the government COVID-19 directives to keep drinking places closed. Engagement of Village Health Teams (VHT’S) and group leaders in the implementation and empowering them with skills to spearhead the alcohol control project has enabled some of the project activities to continue during the lockdown period. Village Health Teams were able to incorporate alcohol messages in the Covid-19 sensitization sessions to ensure continuity of the alcohol control campaigns. Government officials such as Community Development Officers (CDO’s) and Health Assistants spearheaded the programs to encourage alcohol brewers and sellers to think of alternative income generating activities.

During this conference, UNACOH and the project also shared experiences in the control of alcohol harm among communities with other international organizations addressing alcohol harm. There was a presentation to prepare both districts for project hand over in the course of 2022-Bridge year.
2.3 Free Your Mine Project

The Free Your Mine (FYM) project in Uganda was a 3-year project that started in August 2018 and concluded in October 2021. The implementation of the project was done in partnership with Dialogos (a Danish NGO that promotes mercury-free gold mining methods worldwide) and local organizations in Uganda. In the initial phase, the project was implemented by the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) and later on by the Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health (UNACOH). The objective of the project was to stop mercury pollution from ASGM and strengthen the capacity of project partners, Diálogos and the local civil society in the project area to free mines and mining communities from mercury. The project’s main aim was to implement a mercury-free gold processing method in two mining communities of the project in Uganda, and to provide miners and the partner organizations with improved knowledge on mercury pollution and mercury toxicology, and the mercury-free gold processing methods to enabling them to use and to advocate for mercury-free ASGM in Uganda. The goal of the project was a mercury-free ASGM in Uganda and safer work and living conditions for artisanal small-scale gold miners (ASGMs) and their families, and the formalization of the ASGM sector.

The FYM project was implemented in Buhweju District (Western Uganda) and Busia District (Eastern Uganda). The project engaged miners on mercury reduction in ASGM, and built their capacity in the gravity concentration method and monitored miners compliance to the mercury-free method through regular updates by project field officers, and also built capacity of local district stakeholders on mercury-free gold processing and best practices for scale up. The project used different approaches to convert miners to mercury-free practices, and these include:

- Conducting miner-to-miner training in gravity concentration technique of gold recovery in both project areas for artisanal and small-scale gold miners, women and youth miners. The project built miner’s capacity in mercury-free gold processing that is safer for miners, their families and local communities; and results in a better economics for miners in terms of gold recovery compared to gold extraction method with mercury.
- The project in both project areas organized miners into local district miner’s groups / and or associations and helped miners...
to form district miner’s organizations (federations), umbrella miner groups to which miner groups/associations in the district are affiliated and practice mercury-free gold mining. Miners in Buhweju district formed Buhweju United Miners Cooperative Society Limited (BUDUMICS), while Busia miners formed Samia Bugwe Miners Network Limited (SBMN). These two miner's organizations are legal and have exhibited the will to collaborate with local district leadership to eliminate mercury in ASGM and promote mercury-free gold practices in their respective mining areas.

- The project also formed mercury Phase-Out committees in both project areas that comprise of local district stakeholders, including healthcare workers and teachers to spear head the elimination of mercury in artisanal gold mining in the districts. The main objective of the Phase-Out Committee is to develop strategy(ies) for engaging miners and change their mindset so that they can embrace the mercury-free method of gold processing, and also work with the miners to develop local alternative technology(ies) to process the gold without mercury, and in place a mechanism to sustain the project beyond the project.

In a nutshell, the project put in place a mechanism to ensure miners shift to mercury-free gold recovery practices.

Some of the strategies the project developed to ensure project activities go forward after the project winds-up include:

- Putting in place a formidable miner group / association to manage the affairs of the Demonstration Site – a miner group that is charge of the day-to-day operations of the demonstration facility, collaborates with miner associations in the district umbrella miner organization to draw training programs for mercury-free gold processing, ensures the training equipment are in good condition, and ensure the security of the demonstration facility. In Buhweju district, the demonstration site was rehabilitated and 81 miners 38 women and 47 men underwent miner to miner mercury free training, the Women Miner League miners was put in charge of the demonstration site and in Busia the district miners organization – the Samia Bugwe Miners Network Limited (SBMN) was tasked with the responsibility of managing the demonstration site.

- Formation of mercury Phase-Out Committees and project sustainability committees in the project areas each comprising of nine (9) members drawn from local district stakeholders to spear head activities aimed at eliminating mercury from artisanal gold mining sites in the districts, and oversee activities relevant to mercury-free gold practices going forward.
2.4 Apiary Project

The project titled Nakaseke Apiary pilot project is implemented by UNACOH with support from Latek-Stay Alliance funded by the Germany embassy.

The project is a social entrepreneur based and has an aim of impacting 80 farmers in 4 parishes of Kito subcounty. In August 2021, the project supervised a 4 days training of the 80 farmers by a social entrepreneur hired by Latek secretariat.

The training included mainly two modules; 1. The theory module and 2. The practical module. The theory module involved the biology of bees, their life cycle, classification and roles of each of the bee type and their products plus enemies in relation to harvesting or doing value addition to such products. This session was carried out in the morning to noon.

The practical session which was done in the afternoon was a hands on activity involving participants to actively participate. It emphasized on making of bee hives, catcher boxes, and selection of the right materials for the bee hives. It also demonstrated the techniques in bee hive harvesting starting from the right gears and what not to do during the harvesting. At the end of the training. All members were encouraged to make attest 5 hives apart from the one made during the training. In the training, Latek secretariat supported members with material for making 18 hives.

The trained members were then advised to make an association which can meet monthly to do monthly savings report on the progression of assigned tasks or project objectives and motivate each other while solving problems or challenges faced by individual members. A committee constituted of 10 executive members and 6 non-executive members.

After the 4 days training, UNACOH took a role of monitoring the trained farmers in the 4 parishes on a monthly basis. This was done monthly and consecutively for the three months i.e. September to November 2021.

The monitoring for a month was done in the 12th day of the following month and calls were made to the parish coordinators to inform the farmers of the Visitation by UNACOH project coordinator. During this monitoring, it was made in such that the farmers are motivated, but more importantly focused to meet the objective of 5 hives per farmer in the 3 months.

Data was collected from an interview of each individual farmer. This involved noting the number of hives constructed, the amount of money incurred in construction per hive, and the number of colonised hives and their respective dates of harvesting. Also, Challenges faced were recorded and addressed, while those with financial implications were noted for a future solution after consulting with the donor.

A total of 270 hives had been constructed and about 96 (36%) of the hives colonised. An end of Project report has been shared with both UNACOH and Latek secretariat.
The project has established a working relationship with local leaders and Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Miner groups in Amudat District. Based on this relationship implementation of planned project activities is ongoing. Firstly, user friendly Information, Education and Communication materials were developed and shared with stakeholders. Secondly, local leaders and ASGM groups were trained on the negative effects of mercury, benefits of the gravity concentration method, sound mining practices and on health and safety. Thirdly knowledge sharing meetings were conducted for ASGMs. Fourthly, two mercury free gold processing sites demonstration sites were constructed and user committees to manage these sites established. Finally practical demonstration trainings of 16 ASGMs was finalised on the 30th May 2021.
2.6 Advocating for a Model Villages and Towns

**Kyengera Town Council Initiative**

This was one of the activities in the UNACOH NEC Action Plan 2021, which was aimed at mobilizing communities to come up with initiatives that would improve their health conditions through community-based solutions. It was agreed to pilot these initiatives in both Village and Town settings. Kyegegwa District was chosen as a rural district to pilot the village initiative while Kyengera Town Council was chosen for the urban initiative. Members volunteered to champion these causes with support of the National Executive Committee members.

**Background**

UNACOH NEC planned to embark on the above project (Rural & Urban communities)

- Brainstorming sessions were held to strategize how to operationalize this
- Agreed on engaging available community resources during the planning phases
- Partnered with Rotary Club of Kyengera as entry Point to community since they already operate in the area.
- Met with 2 (two) women groups for rapid assessment of needs but also to sensitize them about proposed interventions
- Met some local leadership (Town Council Mayor and Community Development Officer)
- Identified needs were:
  » Youth unemployment
  » Need for water harvesting
  » Environmental protection

**What has been done:**

- Draft MOU to spell out how UNACOH, Rotary Club of Kyengera would contribute to addressing the above needs
- One women’s group was identified as a pilot community
- Identified 10 unemployed youths for skills development in partnership with Rotary Club of Kyengera
- The 10 youths were equipped with briquette making skills
- Youths were promised briquette making equipment, through the Rotary Club of Kyengera.

**Challenges**

- Slow progress on conclusion of draft MOU due to the COVID-19 lock down
- Need for space identification to house the Briquette making equipment.

**Next steps**

- Follow up on the draft MoU
- Engage the Women’s group to find out how far they have moved.
- to identify space for the Briquette making equipment.

[profile picture of Dr. Celiia Nawavvu]

Dr. Celiia Nawavvu
Chairperson
Scientific Committee, UNACOH
2.7 Editorial Committee Activities

The Editorial Committee is responsible for increasing visibility of UNACOH activities through publishing the various engagements done by the Association. It is no brainer that the committee faced challenges in effecting its tasks due to the ripple effects of COVID-19. **However, the following were achieved:**

- Developed a manuscript following the phased activities done by the Alcohol Control Project. The committee also reviewed the report for the year, 2021, following the phased activities by the Alcohol Control Project. A manuscript was therefore, generated for the purpose of publishing.

- Published activities by the alcohol control project. Attempts were made to publish the manuscript entitled “Alcohol consumption patterns in Jinja and Masindi districts,” in the BMJ Public Health journal and the Springer journals. However, the manuscript fell short on the necessitated requirements for publication. Therefore, it was published and available online as a preprint in; Research Gate, Science Gate, Research Square and the Social Science Research Network site (SSRN).

- Complied information for the upcoming UNACOH magazine. Various content was gathered from different members of UNACOH, regarding the activities they had conducted under their respective dockets. Rough content was therefore, put together, that would contribute to the overall content of the UNACOH magazine. However, the Editorial Committee was unable to draft the first copy of the magazine in the predetermined timeline, due to a number of reasons including financial constraints.

- Been part of the teams orchestrating the Kyegegwa and Kyengera prospective projects which are in the pipeline.
As part of the Annual planning, UNACOH drew a budget for its programs at the start of the year of UGX 1.4 Billion. This was expected to be funded from Grants, donations, membership collections and member contributions. However, because of COVID 19 pandemic impact, fund-raising and cash flow from the on-going projects was greatly affected. For instance, some projects were put on halt and others got budget cuts. More still, a few members paid their annual subscription fees due to the economic hardships during the year.

The financing of the activities carried out during the year was from our various partners, mainly with on-going projects, with which we have had quite a long working relationship. These include: IOGT NTO Movement Sweden, that funded the Alcohol Control Project being implemented in Jinja and Masindi Districts, Dialogos in Denmark, funded the Free Your Mine Project, implemented in Buhweju and Busia Districts, World Bank, funded the COVID19 Case Management training for private Health Care Workers, UNDP Global Facility-Small Grants Project, funded the Mercury Free Gold Mining Project in Amudat District, Latek Stay Alliance-Germany based, funded an Apiary Social entrepreneurship project in Nakaseke District, the Rotary Club of Kampala North, funded the MCH /M&E Project, and finally, membership fees collections that contributed to the administrative operations of the Secretariat.

Regarding compliance, UNACOH complied with all regulatory requirements of different bodies including Uganda Revenue Authority, Uganda Financial Intelligence Authority, Uganda Registration Service Bureau, and Uganda National NGO Bureau,

All project audits done in 2021 had a clam opinion including the organization audit for 2020 which was done in 2021. The organization audit for 2021 had not been done at the time of preparing this Report.
Annual Report 2021

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