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**CHILDREN OF THE SUN FOUNDATION UGANDA LIMITED**

**VISION: TO BETTER LIVES THE LIVES OF THE LGBT LIVES IN ALL ASPECTS**

**LOCATION: LUMAS ROAD, KYEBANDO SUBCOUNTY**

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**ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Children of the Sun Foundation Uganda has yet successfully completed its year 2020-2021 regardless the numerous challenges which include the global pandemic which made its operations even more difficult given the fact it came with the greatest storm of the raid which had 21 of its members in Kitalya Mini-Max Prison for 52 days with a lot of toils and snares, regardless of the various challenges, COSF Uganda has been able to stand out and triumph with remarkable milestones with the support from its Members, Members of the Board, Staff and beneficiaries and donors.

1. **ACHIEVEMENTS**

As stated above COSF Uganda started its year with its Executive director, some staff members and some of the beneficiaries in prison but it has ended with a lot of achievements which make it proud of its resilience and hard work.

And these include:

1. Children Of the Sun Foundation Uganda successfully relocated to Kawempe ,Lumasi Road, Kampala Uganda in July 2020 from Kyengera Town Council after the release of its members from Kitalya Mini-max prison .After the relocation, COSF Uganda was able to resume implementing its thematic programs immediately due to the presence of the need for its services from its beneficiaries.
2. COSF Uganda went on and successfully established income generating projects that have employed a number of GBTQ members who were evicted from their homes due to the exposure of their sexual orientation, those that lost jobs due to lay-offs which were caused by COVID 19 among other reasons. This was found important to do because of the strong financial disrupting wave that greatly affected the LGBT community; therefore establishment of this project was intended to support the running of COSF Uganda’s activities and contributing towards gainful income for the LGBTQ community members in order to support them to attain financial independence. Therefore, COSF Uganda established COSF MEDICAL SERVICES, COSF RESTAURANT and improved its clothing stalls in Usafi Market. These initiatives were funded by the GOFUNDME Campaign ,membership fee, and individual donations **(FREE MONEY)**

**COSF MEDICAL SERVICES**

While appreciating other LGBTQ supporting clinics in Uganda, a gap still exists in delivery of discrimination and stigma-free quality health services for the LGBTQ community members therefore COSF Uganda established COSF MEDICAL SERVICES at the COSF Uganda secretariat to ensure good quality health services delivered to the LGBTQ community at a relatively low price and if funded at zero cost. This is a Key Population based clinic and it currently employees 5 employees and all these are all qualified LGBTQ community members. It is located along Lumansi road, Kawempe, Kampala, Uganda.Through COSF Medical Services, COSF Uganda has treated 289 key populations through STI screening and treatment and other related illnesses.

**COSF RESTAURANT**

After assessing the skills of the available human resource and COVID 19 environment, foodwas the best area to venture in, COSF Uganda established the restaurant in Makindye where it currently employs 11 employees and 9 of these are LGBTQ community. The restaurant does both indoor and outdoor catering, event management among others. This was officially launched on 12th December, 2020 by the Board Chairperson, Mr. Richard Lusimbo and the Executive Director Sexual Minorities Uganda, Mr. Frank Mugisha.

**CLOTHING STALLS**

COSF Uganda has owned the stalls over the years but during the global pandemic where the markets were closed, COSF Uganda had to re-strategize and think of ways clients would still be served regardless of the closure of the working premises therefore opening of the online platforms that have been operational since October 2020.

COSF Uganda has employed over 26 LGBT members through the organization and its income generating projects i.e. the COSF Medical Services, COSF Restaurant and COSF Clothing Line. This has greatly contributed towards achieving a self-reliant LGBT community and recovering from COVID 19.

**Summary of the employees employed by COSF UGANDA**

**Table 2.0**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **EMPLOYEMENT** | **NO. OF EMPLOYEES** |
| COSF UGANDA | 9 |
| COSF MEDICAL SERVICES | 5 |
| COSF RESTAURANT | 11 |
| COSF CLOTHING STALLS | 2 |
| **TOTAL** | **27** |

1. Towards capacity building and empowerment of the staff, COSF Uganda has conducted a five days digital training for enhancement of their digital skills and improvement of their cyber security. It has gone ahead and had its staff members trained in resource mobilization, advocacy and mainstreaming.
2. COSF Uganda conducted 2 successful COVID-19 sensitization meetings of its entire staff. They were aimed at providing them with sufficient information that they can use to serve the targeted communities without getting infected with the virus or infecting the beneficiaries.
3. COSF Uganda is running a shelter for the homeless LGBT community members which have been evicted from their homes and villages due exposure of their sexual orientation.The COSF Shelter is used as a rescue Centre for the most at risk vulnerable LGBT community members. It currently harbors 14 residents and has supported 53 homeless LGBT community members in the year 2020-2021. This is found in Mpererwe, Kampala, Uganda.

**The table below shows the number of LGBT community members supported since July 2020-June 2021**

**Table 2.1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Month of the Year** | **Number of** |
| **July** | **8** |
| **August** | **8** |
| **September** | **8** |
| **October** | **8** |
| **November** | **8** |
| **December** | **8** |
| **January** | **11** |
| **February** | **14** |
| **March** | **16** |
| **April** | **16** |
| **May** | **15** |
| **June** | **9** |

1. In the month of August, Cosf Uganda initiated its COSF differentiated Service delivery Module (CDSM), this module was introduced to improve the quality availability of services to the beneficiaries of the COSF Uganda. It targeted at supporting the expert clients to adhere on their drugs, strengthening the peer network, supporting the LGBTQ community during this COVID-19 season with mental health support, ensuring continuation of the fight against HIV/AIDS and other infections, sensitizing the LGBT community about Covid-19, supply and sensitization of health consumables. This innovation has enabled COSF Uganda to improve the quality of services delivered to the LGBT community, fix the loose gaps that existed in the previous implementing modules/ mechanisms as we improve their availability and accessibility regardless of the non-conducive environments.
2. COSF Uganda has continued to link expert clients to Anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and through this some have been linked to the COSF community drug distribution Point (CCDDP). The CCDDP continues to support 28HIV positive members who have all adhered to their ART
3. COSF Uganda has successfully conducted 38 outreaches where it has carried out HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, enrollment on PrEP, STI screening and treatment. They have been done in partnership with implementing partners such The Water reed Project Makerere, TASO Mulago, TASO Entebbe, Trans Equality Uganda (TEU) and KOMAMBOGO Health Centre. Through these Outreaches 1158 GBTQ members have been reached for HIV/AIDS testing and counseling and STI screening and among these 54 reacted positive and have been linked to ART and according reports received from the hospitals that they were referred to, 80% of them are adhering to their treatment.
4. COSF Uganda has conducted and supported the LGBTQ community with nutritional support where it provided them with food and COVID SOPS to use to minimize the spread of COVID-19.The project also ensured drug adherence through delivery of ART. COSF Uganda in partnership with Men Of the Night Uganda, Ice Breaker’s Uganda and Sexual Minorities Uganda conducted a COVID 19 vaccination drive where it vaccinated 42 LGBT community members and some of their families.

**The table below shows the beneficiaries of the COVID-19 relief COSF project as funded by various funding mechanisms (Donors)**

**Table 2.2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Donor** | **Number of Beneficiaries** |
| Sarah Prager(GO FUND ME) | 150 |
| Frontline Aids | 250 |
| All Out | 50 |
| Donor XXXXXXX | 50 |
| TOTAL | 500 |

1. Through the months, COSF UGANDA has gone ahead to distribute condoms in the form of minimizing the spread of HIV/AIDS in the LGBT community. It has been done independently as COSF Uganda and also through partners such Water reed project Makerere, TASO Mulago, RHU,and TASO Entebbe among others.

**The table below shows the distribution of the condoms and lubricants in 2020-2021**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Condoms pieces** | | **Lubricants** |
| July | 5000 | | 2026 |
| August | 75000 | | 2010 |
| September | 48990 | | 2181 |
| October | 56900 | | 15670 |
| November | 112000 | | 26547 |
| December | 90000 | | 67092 |
| January | 130000 | | 57434 |
| February | 25800 | | 64567 |
| March | 32000 | | 98765 |
| April | 90000 | | 125678 |
| May | 98000 | 148764 | |
| June | 138000 | 186966 | |

1. COSF Uganda through its strengthened peer network which is comprised of 6 peer leaders has distributed self -testing kits to Key population that is to say LGBT community and commercial sex workers to enable the community keep in the know of their status.

**The table below shows the self-testing kits distributed in the year 2020-2021**

**Table 2.3**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Number of self-testing kits** |
| July | 180 |
| August | 170 |
| September | 118 |
| October | 124 |
| November | 245 |
| December | 256 |
| January | 233 |
| February | 398 |
| March | 121 |
| April | 124 |
| May | 288 |
| June | 347 |

1. COSF Uganda has created partnership with locally based organizations( sister organization) such as Happy Family Uganda, Taala Foundation , RHU,Lets Walk Uganda, Kuchu Shiner’s Uganda in implementation of various activities. It exists in some LGBT consortiums such as the Uganda Key Populations Consortium (UKPC) and Uganda Minority Shelter Consortium.
2. COSF Uganda has been able to attract support and funding from the all over the globe who have been able to support COSF Uganda in the running of the its activities and other administrative work. These include: Freedom House, UHAI, New York Pride, All OUT, Frontline Aids, Sarah Pager who successfully ran a GOFUND ME page on behalf of COSF Uganda.
3. COSF Uganda successfully a number of projects among this is THE CHANGE PROJECT which is being supported the anonymous donor and this was initiated in 23rd March, 2020. The project involves the supporting of the victims of the COSF 20 through their recovery process and this was named “THE SCARS WE CARRY.” The project further targets at improving the Organization as a whole. The project is to improve our systems, operations and its staff.

COSF Uganda has received other donations as follows:

**Table 2.4**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PROJECT** | **DONOR** | **STATUS** |
| Shelter Relocation(before raid) | Frontline Defenders | Successfully completed |
| Office relocation and security systems | FREDOM HOUSE | Successfully completed |
| Digital Security Strengthening | UHAI | Successfully completed |
| Covid relief support  Shelter Support | Frontline Aids (RRF) | Successfully completed |
| Rent, nutrition, medical support for the COSF 20. | ALL OUT | Successfully completed |
| Medical and Nutrition support | Sexual Minorities Uganda | Successfully completed |
| CHANGE PROJECT | Anonymous | Ongoing (successful) |
| Rent for the shelter | Frontline Aids (RRF | Successfully completed |
| New York Pride | Shelter and Self-defense training | Successfully completed |
| San Diego Pride | Self-defense training | Successfully completed |
| Bruno Bushnoi | Self-defense training | Successfully completed |

1. **CHALLENGES**

The March 2020 Raid

Insecurities at the shelter

Lack of Core support

1. **ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES**

Employment agency: This will be able to give proper preparation for the educated LGBT members for employment, it will also link the employees to the capable employers, create blue collar employment opportunities for the unlearnt.

More Sexual Reproductive Health Rights advocacy

Free STI treatment for all LGBT members through COSF Medical services

Capacity building for the staff and motivation for the staff

There is need to hire more peer leaders and counselors.

Home visits for the expert training

Cyber security/ digital security trainings

Peer capacity training

Community dialogues and outreaches (HIV testing and counseling)

PrEP sensitization

Adhering counseling and support groups for the expert clients

Partnerships with other organizations

More income generation projects

PREPARED BY:

NAME: MUKIIBI HENRY

POSITION: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

APPROVED BY:

NAME: RICHARD LUSIMBO

POSITION: CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF DIRECTORS