



PAORINHER CENTRE REPORT

15th December 2012.

and Visit Report by HART to PAORINHER, Uganda, 13-15 December 2013



Happy 'Graduates' from Pre-Primary School, Paorinher Centre.

1. Introduction.

HART staff, including its Chief Executive, visited Uganda and the Paorinher Centre 13-16 December 2013 to monitor, encourage the staff and to liaise with the all-important and supportive local community.

The inspirational work undertaken at Paorinher Centre in Patongo, Pader District, northern Uganda has continued to expand in scale while maintaining a commitment to high standards of clinical and educational excellence.

A comprehensive report by the Project Administrator, Vincent Nyero and the Director, Raymond Okot was submitted in September 2012, which forms the main text of this report.

Caroline Cox and David Thomas from HART-UK visited Paorinher in December 2012. Their update forms the final section of this report.

It should be noted that the former Project Coordinator, Christine Akot, has left Paorinher and has established a new primary school in Patongo. Vincent Nyero has subsequently assumed responsibility for the programme, ably assisted by Pius Atwai, an experienced nurse with clinical responsibility for the health care of the children who is also assistant Manager; Patrick Okullu, who has primary responsibility for community outreach; and 'Mrs. Millett' - Mrs. Julia Owiny – a long-standing member of the team who assists with administration.

As our concluding section of this report will demonstrate, during our visit in December, we were deeply impressed by the progress achieved by the Centre in every aspect of work: the expansion of the educational programmes for the HIV positive children, other Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) and other children from local families; the quality of health care provided, especially for the children with HIV, in terms of treatment, monitoring, nutrition and maintenance of high quality life styles; the growing support from the community, with public statements of commitment from the Mayor and other influential leaders; the calibre of the staff – and, above all, the manifest happiness, confidence and achievements of the children.

When we compare the situation at the outset of HART's involvement to the present day, we are profoundly appreciative of the achievements of our partners at Paorinher. At the outset, the Centre was caring for 32 malnourished, traumatized and very needy infants.

Now, the Centre supports 24 staff providing holistic care for 215 HIV positive children, 61 of whom attend the school which offers superb education for 287 children at pre-primary and primary level.

Such transformational change could not have occurred without great dedication and hard work by the very committed team of staff, the Board of Management and community leaders. As the concluding section will highlight, despite diverse challenges, their achievements are worthy of commendation, celebration and continuing support.

2. Report by Paorinher Staff, September 2012.

PAORINHER CENTRE

PROJECT REPORT SEPTEMBER 2012

Dear Partners and Donors,

It is with gratitude that we thank you all for the support and love for the children of Uganda, especially Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust for the great support to Paorinher since 2007 to date and still continuing, Network for Africa for supporting the women group, Net4kids and the Wilde Ganzen for coming in to support the OVCs for the year 2011-2012. We also thank the Government for giving us the opportunity to serve the needy children and our local partner Joint Clinical Research Centre for providing capacity building for Paorinher Centre.

Special thanks also go to the workers who have stood strong and worked so hard even during the periods of trials.

We thank the members of the Board of Directors for the guidance and support that they have given to the staff of Paorinher Centre for all the five years of the existence of the Centre.

Our main challenge now is to remain united and keep all the services running and do even more than the previous years.

In this brief report we bring to you mainly the success of the project, though with some few usual challenges. The report is mainly about the activities in an effort to bring health, happiness, love and unity among the vulnerable children and the community.

We are sure to keep on improving our services as we learn more through partnerships and collaboration with other NGOs, the Government and the donor community.

At the start of it all we bring to you one of the Paorinher children giving a speech to Patongo town council members.



“Uganda at 50 years, children are still alive, safe and learning. With all the wars, poverty, diseases, HIV/AIDs etc., how has this been possible? It is because of the love of the donor community, especially the loving HART for making great changes in the lives of the children of northern Uganda, all our other donors and the government support”.

This speech is basically chosen to review Uganda’s performance for the last 50 years of independence. By 9th October 2012 Uganda will be celebrating 50 years of independence.



An artwork demonstrating Uganda at 50 years, children are still alive, safe and learning.



As stated above, our services are aimed at bringing health and happiness to the vulnerable children. The smiles you see on their faces show improvement in their lives.

BRIEF BACKGROUND

This is the fifth year of Paorinher project in supporting the orphans and vulnerable children and children with HIV/AIDs. A total of 310 children are being supported under this project. 190 HIV positive children and 120 other children with different kinds of vulnerability such as orphans, abandoned, children of single mothers, children from very poor families and those of very sick parents.

Paorinher is so far the only centre supporting children who are HIV positive and also vulnerable children in Agago District, originally part of Pader District. Other children centres are in Lira and Gulu which are all over 120km from Paorinher. We therefore need to develop Paorinher to a

national and international, making it centre of excellence for paediatric HIV/AIDs and OVC support and care.

Out of the ten sub-counties in the District, our activities are so far covering seven sub-counties of Patongo, Omot, Lira Palwo, Adilang, Paimol, Lukole and new sub-county of Kotomor. However there is still need for more resources to cover the seven sub-counties effectively and extend to the remaining three.

Paorinher Centre has supported the vulnerable children by providing medication, nutrition, clothing and social support generally.

Through Paorinher activities, other partner organizations have come up to support the community such as Patongo counselling centre now being funded by Network for Africa and the Amazing youth centre being funded by Jubilee action. The Ribbe Aye Teko women group which is still affiliated to Paorinher is also funded by Network for Africa.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Four new board members have been added to replace some of the old board members. They include two retired civil servants, an auditor with the government and a lawyer who is also the legal representative of the organization. It is now a board of eight members. Each Board member has been allocated a department in the project to oversee the activities and advise accordingly.

HUMAN RESOURCE

The centre now has 24 paid members of staff, making it the largest CBO in the District. At the moment every new worker has to be recruited by the Board of directors and the same applies to any dismissals. Due to this large number, the recruitment of new staff cannot be carried on and the existing staffs are required to add on extra load if needed. (The organization chart attached).

HIV/AIDs programs



One of the children having his blood taken for CD4 test.

At this time, Paorinher project is supporting 190 HIV positive children and their guardians or parents. The 190 HIV positive children have been provided with services which include;

- Treatment support against opportunistic Infections (OI), Cotrimoxazole prophylaxis and Anti retroviral therapy (ART)

- Support for CD4 screening to ascertain the viral load. This normally helps to find out if the patient should start the ARV. However all infants are given ARV even before the CD4 test is done as advised by the Ministry of Health
- All the children have been screened for tuberculosis. TB is highly associated with HIV and that is why all patients with HIV should undergo TB screening so that they get treated early to keep healthy.
- Referrals and follow up for treatment has been done to all the 190 children in different health centres within the district. All the children are closely monitored as regards their adherence to treatment, especially ART.
- Nutritional packages have been given to all the 190 children and their families. However we have observed that this particular activity of giving food packages is not sustainable, hence need for a more durable solutions to such children and their families.
- Risk reduction counselling to the HIV positive children and their families.
- Social support and protection of the children to protect their rights



The medical checkup and treatment of children are on daily basis. Here the children are receiving medication from Akidi Gift a centre nurse.

OVC PROGRAMMES

The activities to support the OVCs are done concurrently with the ones of HIV positive children. All of them are vulnerable children; however the HIV positive children are more vulnerable. Therefore in addition to the above program, the children receive free education support from the project. In this case they get scholastic materials, clothing, treatment and feeding to enable them study comfortably from the centre. The children who cannot access the services from the Paorinher centre are reached by field workers and get their services right from their homes and are helped to attend the schools near them. Social activities are part of the program to keep the children united and happy. These include singing, dancing, athletics, storytelling and other related activities.



Training for creative Traditional Dance



Performing creative dance in August 2012

Some of the OVCs under care who live in the remote rural areas have visited the centre for support, in addition to the visits they receive from the Field Officers.



Some of the children who attend school at Paorinher centre during break time.



The education of the children both HIV positive and OVCs has now reached primary four from the early childhood development programs. The children are given education following the national curriculum and other activities are involved such as games songs dances, debates, storytelling and physical exercise.

We have almost completed the five classroom block and furnished it with eighty desks for children to sit comfortably. The classrooms are already being used as we do the finishing.

This is the new classroom block and an office. All the 26 windows and six doors have been fitted. It remains to paint and to build the verandah.



Eight stance pit latrine block newly constructed to accommodate the increasing number of children at the centre.



Feeding

One of our major activities is to provide feeding to the vulnerable children. The children who come to Paorinher centre on daily basis get two meals per day, while the children from far away receive food packages once a month. This however is proving to be expensive and not sustainable. Food is locally bought unless during times of scarcity. The centre also practices some small scale farming,

mainly vegetables and root crops (cassava and sweet potatoes) to add on to the food bought.



Rose is preparing porridge for the children. Due to the small size of the kitchen, some food stuffs are cooked from out.

Vegetable garden at Paorinher centre planted in April 2012. This is cabbage. There are also onions and tomatoes.





Patrick and David are organizing the food stuffs for distribution to the OVCs who live far away from the centre. The food stuff here includes soya products, millet/corn flour and sugar and also soap.

Growth Monitoring

HIV/AIDs are the greatest factor in affecting the growth and development of children. Others include nutrition, relationship with the parents, play and the related needs, sharing with others, illnesses, adverse situations such as war, trauma, substance abuse by caregivers, cultural beliefs etc. Therefore at Paorinher, the children are monitored regularly as regards their physical, mental and health developments using the child development milestone chart as the guiding factor. The children are therefore given the necessary treatment and response to improve their health. As of April 2012, 98% of the children reported positive change in development. This is due to the hard work of the fieldwork team, cooks, caretakers, administrators and the nurses who guide the parents and guardians on feeding, treatment and communication with the OVCs.

Community support

The community within Patongo have demonstrated their support for the project by allowing children from well to do families to study and play together with the vulnerable children at Paorinher centre. They contribute financially and materially to support the extra number of children and to pay the extra staff. Between February and July 2012 they contributed 3000kg of foodstuffs. This contribution has helped the centre greatly during the last season of food shortage and high prices. The vulnerable women group have also done some good work especially when it comes to garden work or general cleaning at the Paorinher centre and monitoring the children who are near them.

The women's group who have been organised and affiliated to Paorinher have been receiving



their support from Network for Africa, a UK based organization. For the past years this group, locally called "Ribbe Aye Teko" received farming inputs from Network for Africa in form of Oxen, ploughs seeds and funds for hiring extra gardens. This year 2012 Network for Africa has given 53 female and

Oxen ploughing the fields for the women's group with grant from Network for Africa.

Our Partners

Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust is the major funding partner to Paorinher project since 1997, providing funds to support salaries, materials and activities of the project. At the start of July 2010, HART has been funding Paorinher to support Paediatric HIV/AIDs in Agago District and the surrounding areas. For the last project year, HART contributed 238,000,000 UG shillings which is 80% of the funds received by Paorinher Centre for 2011. HART is a small organization but has been supportive for all these years to relieve the children of northern Uganda from disease and suffering. It is our prayer that other humanitarian organizations and individuals join HART to continue the project of northern Uganda.

Net4kids and the Wilde Ganzen gave 14,200 Euros in 2011 to continue the support of other vulnerable children who are not HIV positive but have been affected by the armed conflict, children who are abused or neglected, those in need of protection, children in alternative family care and those with disability or with parents who are disabled or very poor. Net for kids contributed 15% of the funds received by Paorinher in all.

Joint clinical Research Centre (JCRC) has partnered with Paorinher to build capacity in area of HIV/AIDs. JCRC gave 20,000,000 Uganda shillings for this purpose. This partnership was for 18 months and will be renewed in October 2012 for another 18 months.

Network for Africa is supporting the vulnerable women group "Ribbe Aye Teko" offering them livelihood support as indicated above.

Some Challenges:

Ignorance:

There is ignorance by some of the community members especially in taking everything for granted that the project must have complete control of all the needs of the children, which is not possible at this time. This is why we still have problems with the OVCs that the project took care off since 2007 and returned them to the parents/caretakers. Some of these children were abandoned and could not even continue with education due to lack of scholastic materials. We therefore have to continue seeking funds to support them to a level which is acceptable.

Rising cost of living:

The inflation is all the time increasing here in Uganda. By 2010 when we made the proposal and the budget, the inflation was at 9%. By Mid 2011 the inflation had reached 19%, meaning that the prices of items had increased by 10%. This, coupled with shortage of food stuffs, put a lot of strain on our budget. By April 2012 there was a lot of famine here, prices went up and even the food stuffs could not be obtained locally. This is where we see the importance of the contingency fund and adjustments of expenditures from one budget line to another and supplementary funds.

Few Classrooms and furniture:

Although we have put up the five classroom block, there is still need for five more to accommodate the pupils to primary seven and at least 100 more three-seat desks. This will require a grant particularly for the development of the education side of the project because community contribution is still small.

Water:

As the population of the children increase at the centre, it is becoming difficult and expensive to employ staff to fetch water on daily basis. The solution would be to have the borehole sunk at the centre. This would require about 27,000,000 Uganda Shillings. *(See update in Section 3.)*

Ageing structures:

Most of the buildings require renovations and yet our budget for repairs is small. Currently we are able to improve the grass roofed huts but painting is expensive.

Other factors

Factors which indirectly affect the centre include domestic violence, poverty in the community, lack of family planning, bad roads and drought.

There is also need for durable solutions for the family of the children being supported for lively hood support in future.

Once again our great thanks to you all for the great support to the vulnerable children and we hope you will continue tirelessly to support Paorinher project.

God bless you all.

Raymond Okot, Director and Vincent Nyero, Project Administrator

3. Report of Visit by HART staff, December 2012.

Caroline Cox and David Thomas visited the Centre in December 2012 on the occasion of the Graduation of another cohort of pupils from pre-primary school. *(See HART visit report of January 2011 for attendance at a previous Graduation ceremony of pre-primary school pupils).*

This visit provided an opportunity to witness the educational achievements of the pupils, both from the pre-primary school and from the extended educational provision to primary level education. There has been the plan to eventually expand to secondary education but the Mayor stated at the Graduation Ceremony the intention of the local area to establish a secondary school to build on the work of the Primary Schools.



One of the dances by girls and boys at the centre and school, during the graduation ceremony.

In addition, we were able to experience the strong support from the local community.

On arrival at the airstrip, we were welcomed by a large gathering of children from all the classes from pre-primary to secondary, by many of the 215 HIV positive children receiving care at the Centre and by the local Youth Band, leading us all on a procession through the town of Patongo.



It was encouraging to see new growth of shops, houses, restaurants in the town, reflecting a resurgence of confidence, investment and quality of life in a community which had been psychologically devastated and whose infrastructure had been physically destroyed by 20 years of terror, killings, abductions and destruction by the notorious Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Paorinher Centre has played a significant role in the resurgence of the town and the development of new initiatives.

A living symbol of achievement: graduating from pre-Primary and holding up her certificate at the ceremony as the wider, and actively supportive, community looks on.

The developments at Paorinher Centre were immensely encouraging. They include:

- An enhanced Board of Management, with new members bringing a wide range of expertise. The Board now consists of 5 members, including the Chairman who has served on the Board for several years & 2 new members: a retired Civil Servant who is also a former Headmaster and currently Inspector of Schools; and a District health administrator. The Board is also supported by a new legal consultant, who is legal consultant to Uganda Football Association (FUFA).
- An increase in staff to 24, including experienced school teachers, health care personnel and community outreach workers.
- The growth in the number of children receiving education, health care, nutrition and all aspects of holistic care. As already highlighted in the Introduction, the Centre now provides care for 215 HIV positive children, 61 of whom attend the school which offers superb education for 287 children at pre-primary and primary school classes.
- The expansion of community support. At the Graduation ceremony which we attended on December 14th, the Mayor; Bosco Okol, Chairman Local Council One; Lakar Bismak, District Council member; Okello Punto, the Education Officer; and other local dignitaries gave strongly supportive speeches and the event was attended by several hundred members of the local community, including many families of children attending the school. The Mayor mentioned, in addition to the plan for the future establishment of a Secondary School, the Area's commitment to the improvement of the road to the Centre and its intention to provide a bore-hole for water supply at the Centre which would also be available for the local community.
- Growing financial support from the local community in the form of financial contributions and contributions in kind (such as bags of cement) which has enabled the extension of school buildings to accommodate the growing number of classes. Fund-raising initiatives are now focused on raising resources for a classroom for the final year of primary school.
- Increased support and collaboration from local NGOs working in related fields, which will not only help the Centre to consolidate and expand its work, but also help to contribute towards sustainability.
- Above all, there is the enhancement in quality & quantity of the provision of holistic care for HIV positive children and their carers and of education for these children and children from the local community.
- This expansion brings an immensely important collateral benefit: the reduction, indeed often elimination, of the cultural stigma associated with AIDS. As the school at Paorinher has such a good reputation for excellence, many local well-to-do families are eager to send their children to 'the school for HIV positive children'. And the children with AIDS themselves are powerful advocates for the abolition of the stigma traditionally associated with their condition. Through dance, music, poetry and through meetings and concerts in the community, they perform an educational role, highlighting the importance of prevention and, for those already affected, of not being reluctant to admit their condition and to come for treatment.

This catalogue of achievements is a tribute to all who have dedicated their professionalism, their skills, their time, their energy and their unstinting commitment to providing hope, healing and education for some of the most vulnerable children in Uganda today.

We wish to record our profound admiration and deep appreciation for all they have accomplished in the challenging context of a deeply traumatized region of northern Uganda, for a population who

have suffered two decades of violence and terror. Paorinher is recognized as a Centre of Excellence, bringing light into the darkness which had prevailed and providing an exemplar as a model for others to develop in their own ways.

In conclusion, we thank very warmly all those who have made it possible, through financial and professional resources, for HART to provide support for the amazing development of Paorinher which we celebrate today.



A proud family on Graduation Day.

Acknowledgements

We wish to record our deep gratitude to all who worked so hard to make complicated logistical arrangements for our visit, including Revd. Canon Alison Barfoot [Assistant to the Archbishop for International Relations] and her colleague Susan whose formidable efficiency resulted in arrangements for accommodation in Entebbe and Kampala; local travel with punctual, courteous drivers at all hours of the day and night; details of practical arrangements for the official programme, co-ordinating timetables for hundreds of guests – and all with characteristic and unruffled charm.

In Patongo, we also thank very warmly all the staff at Paorinher for their generous hospitality, with delicious Ugandan food, the superb Graduation programme – and, above all, for the joy they share with us in celebrating their achievements in promoting happiness, health and educational attainments of the children.

Finally, we are grateful for the privilege of being invited to attend the Enthronement Ceremony of the Most Reverend Stanley Ntagali. It was an honour to be present for this historic occasion for the Anglican Church in Uganda, and to enjoy the celebrations in the Cathedral and the associated events. It was also a pleasure and privilege to share this occasion with many friends and colleagues from Uganda and from the wider international community.

Caroline (Baroness) Cox HART CEO and Revd. David Thomas HART Projects and Logistics

December 15th 2012.

13TH 12.2012.

LADY CAROLINE COX, REVEREND DAVID THOMAS

AND ALL STAFFS OF HART UK

Dear All,

RE: PAORINHER STAFFS APPRECIATION TO YOU

As staffs of PAORINHER Centre, we convey our high

Felicitation to the Almighty father for making us your

Partner in supporting the vulnerable children.

We would like to thank you for your unending love for us.

Amidst many challenges you have always been by our side

time and time again. We do not know how best we should

appreciate you, ,may the almighty God reward you

abundantly.

Many families have benefited directly and indirectly from

your support

We wish you a merry Christmas and prosperous New Year

2013

Thank you

Appendix 2

LETTERS FROM CHILDREN AT PAORINHER

Thanks a lot Baroness for six years without the love of my parents. I am now so happy that I have got courage and hope for my bright future just because of my new mother – Paorinher. In her HART you are so dear to my life. Enjoy your Christmas with all your family with God’s spoonful blessing.
Okill Barnard - Primary School Class 2 2012

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It is with great joy to God that we send a special Christmas greetings to all our friends. We really appreciate the efforts you HART is doing in Patongo. We love your concern for victims of Northern Uganda.

Ageno-Rwots Mirriam - Primary School Class 2 2012

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The fourth generation of people in Uganda were being nailed due to Lord Resistance Army and their effects like;

- Many orphans were left
- HIV and AIDS etc

Mother Baroness Cox and dear father Rev. David for all supports and care they are giving us today.
Lanyera Babra – Primary School Class 4 2012

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May this festive season bring change, joy and hope to our dear donors. I pray also that our region Northern Uganda continue having Peaceful land.

Thank you HART and every one

Okot Richard - Primary School Class 4 2012

* * *

Thank you very much for giving us courage. The hopeless orphans of Northern Uganda. As you keep on supporting others around the world we wish all HART a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Jolly Barnabus – Primary School Class 2 2012

Six (6) years from now, I dream of Paorinher as a school that will have a great change with quality education, where leaders will lead like Christ desiring to serve rather than to be served.

Lanyero Anna Viviana – Primary School Class 4, 2012