



ANNUAL REPORT

2019

Changing lives using  
Low cost-high Impact  
interventions



## Our Vision

A healthy, socially and economically empowered community.



## Mission Statement

To provide equitable, inclusive and affordable quality health care, economic empowerment and social services to the community.



## Values

1. Equity of access
2. Affordability
3. Effectiveness
4. Partnerships
5. Efficiency and Accountability





## Message from the Executive Director

It is with great pleasure for me to share with you the milestones for yet another year of serving our communities, especially the first year of implementation of the five year strategic plan, 2019-2023. I take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for the Support to make sure our organization accomplishes its goals and objects. The Management and Staff for their commitment to achieve the planned activities.

Below are the highlights of the achievement made by St. Francis Healthcare Services for the year ended 31 December 2019 with Support from the following Development Partners: The Stephen Lewis Foundation, The Segal Family Foundation, The Government of Uganda, and Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau through Lugazi Catholic Diocese. Others are The Mercury Phoenix Trust, Makerere University Walter Reed Project, Omoana Switzerland, Eirine Swisse and Buikwe District Local Government. In Summary the following have been achieved;



24 VSLA Groups Formed  
45 Active VSLA Groups  
253 Households with established backyard gardens

2,123 Beneficiaries reached with nutritional education



4,685 Youths reached with SRHR services  
903 Reached with family planning in the community

3,233 Women accessed family planning services  
4,849 New OPDs



*Looking for yet another Exciting Year 2020*  
*God bless you all*  
Rtn Faustine Ngarambe  
Executive Director



## Message from the Chairman of the Board of Director, SFHCS

The Board congratulates the management and staff for the achievement attained for the year ended 2019 as the first year of implementation of SFHCS the 2019-2023 strategic plan. Through your steadfast support, each and every one of you can help

support better health and wellness for individuals in the communities we serve. Together we can ensure that St. Francis Healthcare Services continues to provide our communities with culturally competent quality health care.

Through the years, St. Francis Healthcare Services pushed forward, overcoming challenging times due to the dedication and passion of community members around the establishment and our amazing staff. Today we are a thriving organization due in part to a committed community of patients, staff and our development partners who have continued to render tremendous support to the organization's activities. Of note, we are embarking on new journeys that are in line with our five year strategic plan, pursuing it in excellence. We will continue to pursue ways to meet the needs of our clients and those of other stakeholders entirely.

Personally, I am excited about the many achievements made especially the attainment of over 100% planned targets for the year ended December

2019 in the areas of social economic empowerment, health services and youth empowerment and child protection. Performance in other areas of our focus is also generally good.

With the establishment of the theatre facility at St. Francis Healthcare Services, the sky is the limit. There are new possibilities ahead of doing much better in all the areas. We can all be proud of what St. Francis Healthcare Services stands for and its legacy for providing services to all. As Chair, and entire Board we are proud to build upon our organization's history and look forward to achieving much more amidst many challenges. The Board of St. Francis Healthcare Services is committed to serve and look forward to championing the vision and mission of the organization during the Board's

tenure.

*Wishing you all the best*  
Nsanze Ignatius Kanya  
**Chairman of the Board of Director,  
SFHCS**

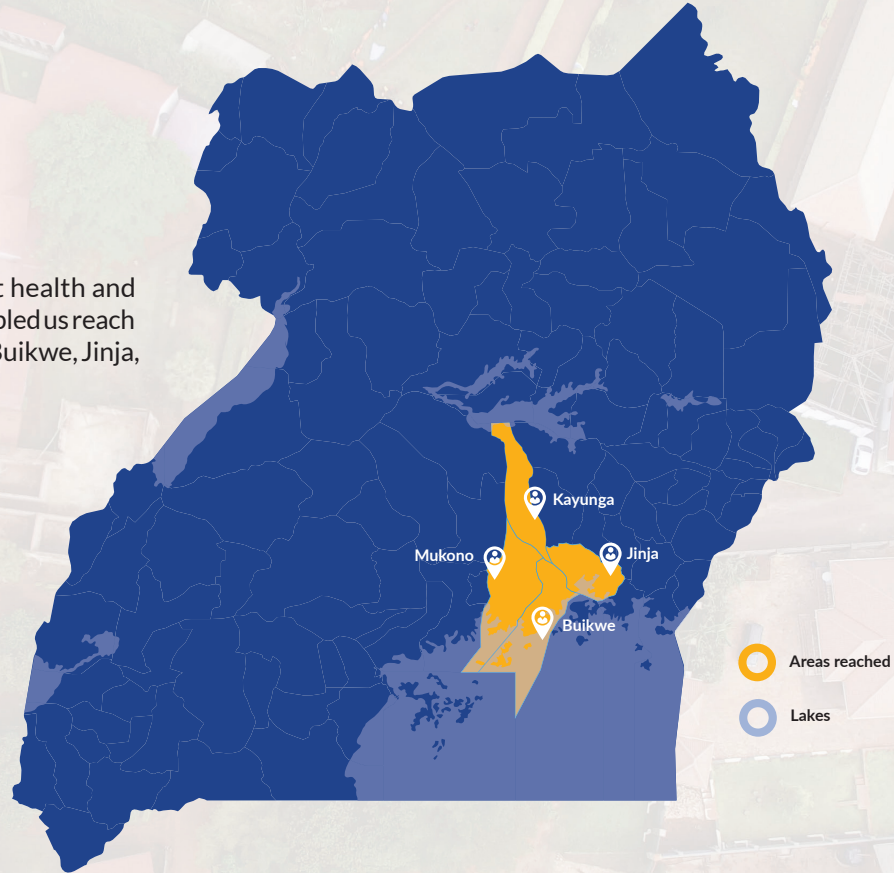


## Our Approach to impacting Lives

We model low cost high impact health and social interventions that address the greatest needs of the vulnerable families using the Family development Plan while triggering local capacity to make sustainable solutions for the challenges they face.

## Our Reach

Our proven low cost high impact health and social interventions model has enabled us reach over 15,000 clients in 2019 from Buikwe, Jinja, Kayunga and Mukono district.



## Our Commitment

Reaching the greatest needs of the people we serve demands our commitment to keep the quality of our services high and continuous listening to our beneficiaries. We continue to espouse our values and improving our systems to ensure that internal accountability is accorded even greater significance in our future work and maximizing impact for each dollar invested in our proven interventions. Our recently launched five year strategic plan 2019-2023 is designed to transform us into an organization that triggers local capacity to address family/national social and health challenges.





# Our Impact at a Glance



## Social Economic Empowerment



**24 (218%)** VSLA Groups Formed

**45 (102%)** Active VSLA Groups

**8 (18%)** Groups trained in financial Literacy

**18 (41%)** Groups trained in business skills

**46 (230%)** Youths Placed on Apprentiship

**10 (50%)** youths completed Apprentiship



## Food Security and Nutrition



**6 (60%)** Farmer Field Schools/groups formed

**253 (14%)** Households with established backyard gardens

**2,123 (43%)** Beneficiaries reached with nutritional education

**215 (72%)** Households reached with cooking demonstrations



## Youth Empowerment and Child Protection



**394 (74%)** OVC supported with primary fees

**14 (9%)** Supported with secondary education

**345 (65%)** Supported with scholastic materials

**4,685 (390%)** Youths reached with SRHR services

**903 (301%)** Reached with family planning in the community

**26 (52%)** Schools reached with child protection activities

**80 (67%)** Youths participating in Art and performance



## Health Services



**1,270 (264%)** Women accessed antenatal services

**306 (99%)** Women accessed maternity services

**3,233 (147%)** Women accessed family planning services

**8,632 (86%)** Reached with health education

**3,466 (50%)** Counseled and tested

**5 (17%)** Bedridden clients reached through home visits

**4,849 (54%)** New OPDs

**523 (39%)** Inpatients

**2,094 (86%)** clients on ART

**1,902 (92%)** with suppressed VL load



Happy child at Owoana House, St. Francis Healthcare Services

## Saving Lives through expanding access to ART

Contributing to the real possibility of reaching the UNAIDS target 95.95.95 has been the ultimate strategic driver for St Francis HIV programming. In Buikwe district, St Francis was one of the first implementing partners supported by USAID /PEPFAR to offer life saving drugs in 2008. For over 12 years, we have provided free ART drugs to over 3,000 People Living HIV (PLHIV) in the central districts of Uganda and in 2019 we had 2,094 active clients on ART. We celebrate this achievement.

In 2019 St Francis Strengthened a new client centred model of ART service delivery called differentiated service delivery model that aims at meeting the needs of individual clients and improving health systems efficiency. The various approaches under this model have improved clinical outcomes, client satisfaction and quality of life.

Regardless of challenges, we are very determined to continue working with all our esteemed partners to ensure that our efforts contribute to a reduction in morbidity and mortality due HIV/AIDS, and to archive a world free of HIV in the near future.

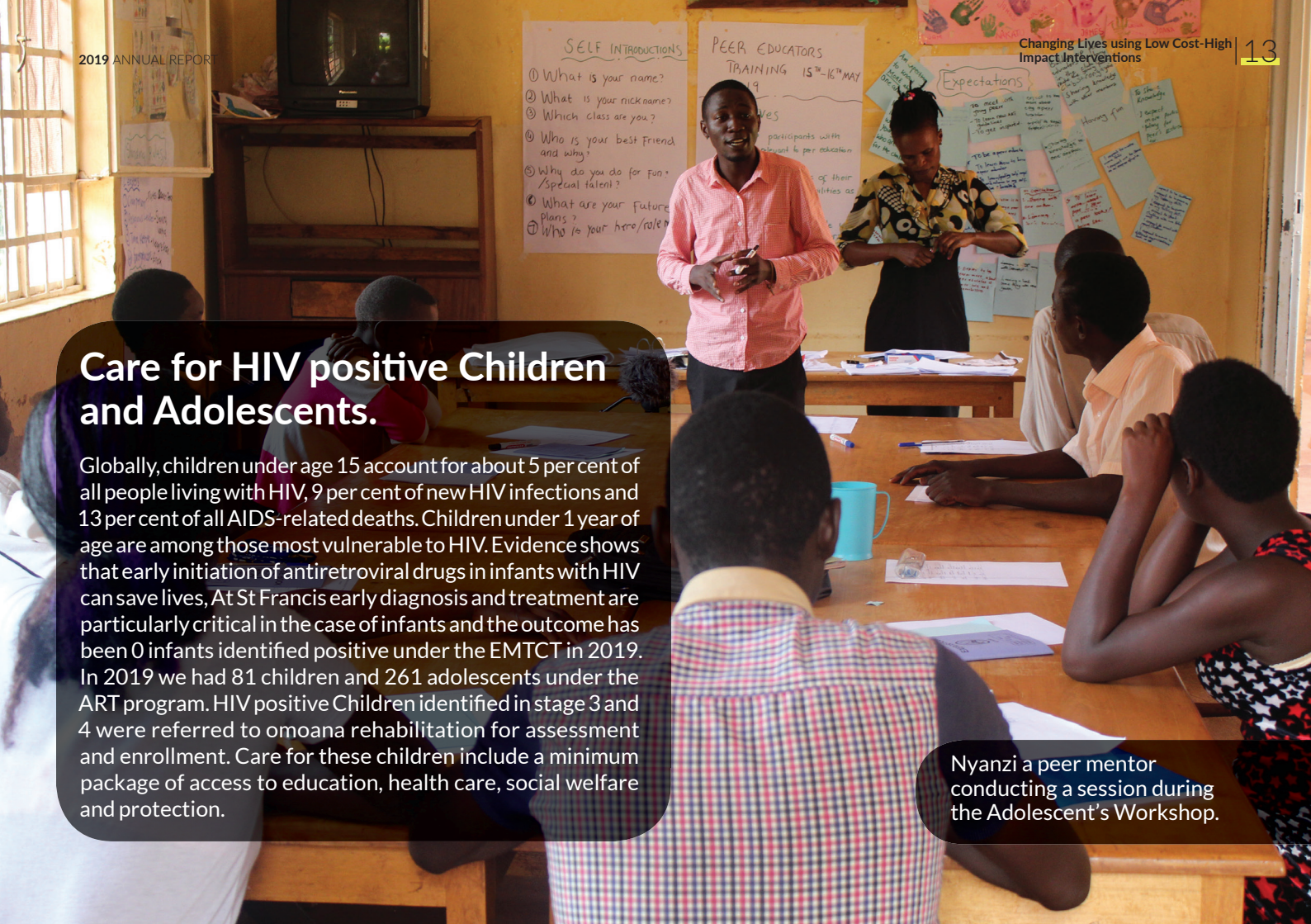


*Members of the ART team explaining to a client her Drug dosage at Home.*

## Care for HIV positive Children and Adolescents.

Globally, children under age 15 account for about 5 per cent of all people living with HIV, 9 per cent of new HIV infections and 13 per cent of all AIDS-related deaths. Children under 1 year of age are among those most vulnerable to HIV. Evidence shows that early initiation of antiretroviral drugs in infants with HIV can save lives. At St Francis early diagnosis and treatment are particularly critical in the case of infants and the outcome has been 0 infants identified positive under the EMTCT in 2019. In 2019 we had 81 children and 261 adolescents under the ART program. HIV positive Children identified in stage 3 and 4 were referred to omoana rehabilitation for assessment and enrollment. Care for these children include a minimum package of access to education, health care, social welfare and protection.

Nyanzi a peer mentor conducting a session during the Adolescent's Workshop.



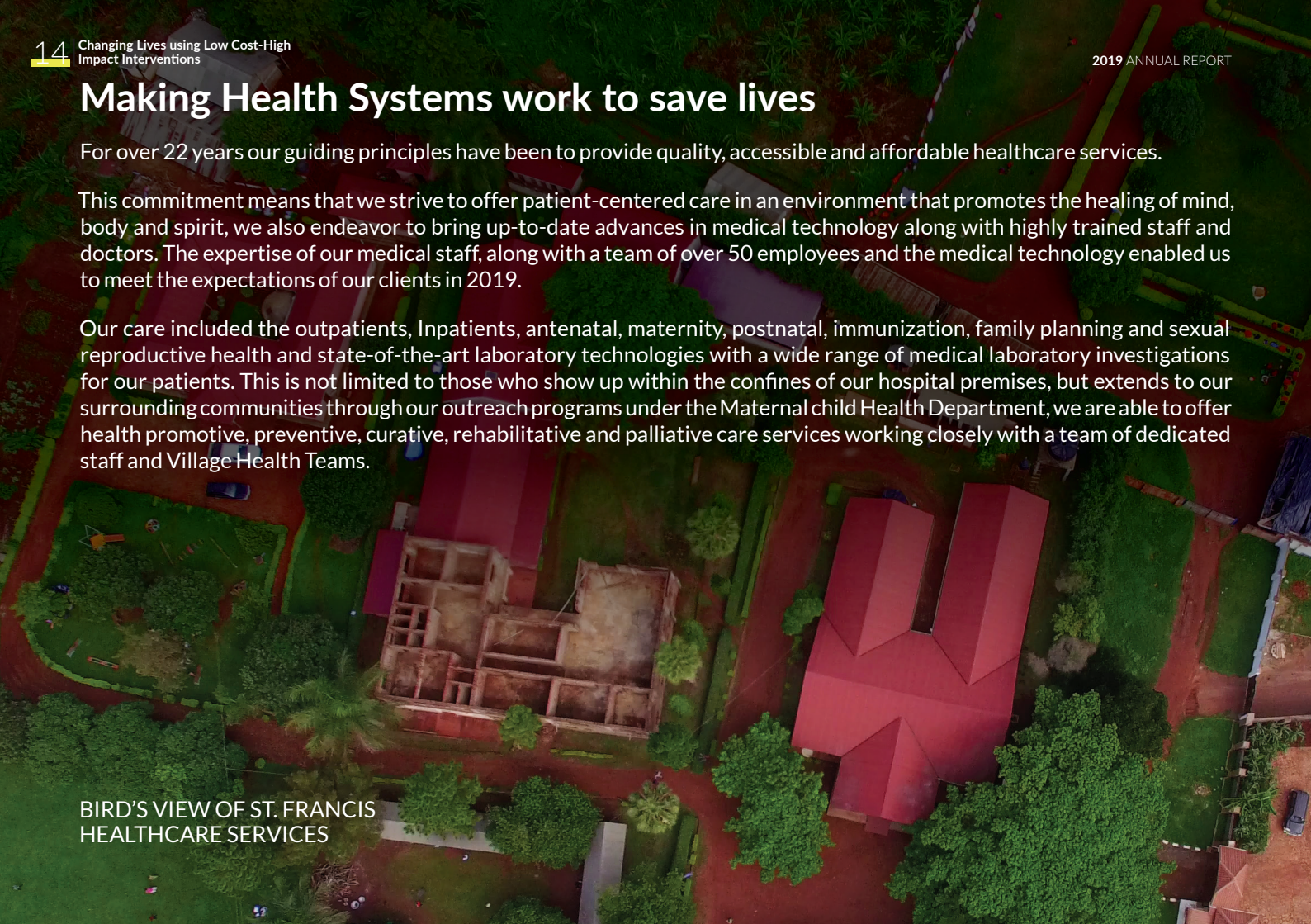
# Making Health Systems work to save lives

For over 22 years our guiding principles have been to provide quality, accessible and affordable healthcare services.

This commitment means that we strive to offer patient-centered care in an environment that promotes the healing of mind, body and spirit, we also endeavor to bring up-to-date advances in medical technology along with highly trained staff and doctors. The expertise of our medical staff, along with a team of over 50 employees and the medical technology enabled us to meet the expectations of our clients in 2019.

Our care included the outpatients, Inpatients, antenatal, maternity, postnatal, immunization, family planning and sexual reproductive health and state-of-the-art laboratory technologies with a wide range of medical laboratory investigations for our patients. This is not limited to those who show up within the confines of our hospital premises, but extends to our surrounding communities through our outreach programs under the Maternal child Health Department, we are able to offer health promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care services working closely with a team of dedicated staff and Village Health Teams.

BIRD'S VIEW OF ST. FRANCIS  
HEALTHCARE SERVICES





## A CASE STORY OF AYIO MADELIENE S-SFH-0303-01

Ayio Madeliene is a 24 year old Female living in Namwezi, Mbiko parish, Njeru Sub-county in Buikwe District. Ayio joined FDP on 30th April 2016 attending sessions at the BRIGHTSTARs safe space. She narrates that “I will always remember

# Making Dreams possible for AGYWs through the FDP Project

## I’AM STRONGER AND EMPOWERED

that day because it has become my turning point in life. I have noticed many positive changes in my life and they have all been in a short time, I expect many more to come”.

I faced many challenges growing up, I dropped out of school at an early age and at 15 years I was a house maid and was exposed to inconsiderate bosses, at 17 years I got pregnant because I could not negotiate my way through negative influences, I always felt inferior and didn’t value myself. When I joined the FDP project, Life skills trainings made me confident and empowered enough to overcome any challenge. My self- esteem has greatly improved and I attribute this to the discussions during the Life Skills training session of “I am special, My abilities, My skills and My Values”. I have ended up becoming a stronger me, I am now a councilor in my village and am proud of it.

Before joining FDP, I used to spend whatever I could get and could not keep any money with me. Having money could mean buying whatever I could come across for as long as it looked good to me. However, since I went through the VSLA training, things have changed. I have known how important

saving is no matter how much you save. I now save and whatever I have to spend, it must be spent according to the budget; something I had never known before.

My entire life, I had a dream of becoming a hair stylist. This was my life’s biggest desire. I had a neighbor who had a saloon and whenever I could stand near her watching what she was doing, she could chase me away suspecting that I could learn by watching her.

FDP has given me an opportunity that will make my dream a reality. I was selected for apprenticeship, and when asked the trade I wanted I choose hair dressing. Am hoping to be attached to a saloon in 2020 where I will see my dream come true.

As soon as I finish up the course, I hope to start up my own saloon and follow in the footsteps of my role model who is also a hair stylist and has achieved a lot through her work.

**“With FDP, my dream will come true.”**

## Family Planning and Reproductive Health.

In 2019 St Francis offered a range of services to include family planning, prevention and diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections. The work is led by a full-time staff of five mid wives, five volunteers and 10 youth peer educators. Achievements are reflected in the milestones above.

In 2019 we have achieved the following milestones reflecting on the indicators under our impact at a glance.

We have realised increased awareness and understanding of youth amongst targeted communities of their **SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS** as well as provided with sexual reproductive health services.



We have built capacity of community groups to engage with key decision makers and community leaders in order to advocate for increased prioritisation of their Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights

We have realised increased commitment of health providers, CBOs, local and international NGOs, protective authorities (including the police) and district and national policy makers to the Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights of youth in our communities.





Mable a Mid wife vaccinating a baby on one of the Immunisation days



Constance a Grannies/OVC project officer leading children of Naminya C/U in Psychosocial activities at their School

## Changing lives through empowering OVC households

St Francis views education as an awareness of reality, and as a process of self-discovery. Education is therefore critical towards self-reliance, and an individual's ability to pursue an active purpose in the community and in civil

society.

St Francis has a comprehensive package for its 663 OVC and their households which includes: school fees, School supplies and uniforms, Enrichment and remedial activities, Teacher capacity building for humane approach to children living in difficult circumstance

In 2019 we provided the following services in OVC households:

Health care. St Francis values the linkage of all OVC to health services. We provide health essential services free of charge. At the same time campaigns are carried out in conjunction with VHTs Communities are informed on various health issues hence make prevention possible, as medical check-ups, de-worming and vitamin "A" campaigns, HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education on health issues, such as hygiene and nutrition.



Nakigozi Milly getting  
Support from her Artisan

Creation of child friendly spaces. St Francis supports the creation of Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) within the schools and community where children have free access and feel safe from vulnerabilities. The spaces are used as safe nets where children meet the Social Workers, get sensitized on various protection issues; referrals are made where need be and children are engaged in various recreational and rehabilitation activities games, music and dance, art therapies and educative sessions on identified thematic areas. Identified mentors and role models are engaged to share experiences and educate children on various protection issues.

Providing of Psychosocial support to children and their families. Some of the activities carried out with OVCs and caregivers include counseling, sport, art therapy, music and dancing. St Francis also works with school to equip teachers with psychosocial trauma counseling skills and provide an enabling environment for children.

Livelihoods and Economic empowerment for families and older OVCs. This a sustainability activity in which all the children finishing secondary school or those unable to transition to secondary have a chance to learn a skill or a trade hence increase their capacity to take care of themselves and the families.

Agri-business nutrition and food security.

The link between nutrition, general health and education is one of fundamental value. Good nutrition which is an aspect of food security provides the foundation for good health at the poor household level which is crucial to education as it enhances child retention in school. In recognition of this important relationship, St Francis implemented programs that ensure adequate nutrition, particularly for the most vulnerable and those who suffer from a compromised immune system due to HIV/AIDS, or are facing starvation as a result of food scarcity induced by poor and unfavorable weather conditions.

## Advocating for the Rights of Grandmothers.

In 2019 St Francis carried out a needs assessment using the Vulnerability and needs assessment tools to identify grandmother's households that needed support and which kind of support, this assessment annually informs us the vulnerability status of household's after a given period of time of giving support. Based on the 2019 findings the 500 different enrolled grandmother's households received the following



## Food Security

In 2019 we conducted cooking demonstrations and provided agricultural equipment and household items, like hoes, Seedlings to increase food production and washbasins to improve hygiene and decrease illness among the grandmother's households.

## Village Saving groups.

We had a cumulative of 15 VSLA groups, these regular meetings bring together about 30 Grandmothers in a group at a time to save money and receive loans, share education, training, and support. Each group is led by a selected committee. Groups also receive business training, and they receive health education, like HIV/AIDS management. Most importantly, they learn how to best support the emotional and psychological development of children in their care, many of whom have faced great trauma and neglect.

## Home-based care.

When Grandmothers are accepted into the program, they enter into our system of support. With their own children claimed by HIV/AIDS, Some live without shelter or a basic pit latrine and cooking structure. Staff and Grandmother leaders prioritize who is most in need of resources from newly constructed houses to renovated



Grannies Harvesting Greens from the grannies demo farm

## Grannies Drama group entertaining Guests







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