CRANE
Children at Risk Action Network

Life *in all its* Fullness

Crane Annual Report
April 2023 *to* March 2024

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All names of children have been changed for their protection in line with CRANE Child Protection Policy.
We have collated statistics for the dates indicated in this report; some donor reports require different reporting dates.

CRANE's Leadership Reports

CRANE Board Chairperson

Thanksgiving

This is a time to say thank you, Lord. We have had amazing testimonies of girls and families whose stories have been written because of our interventions in the last ten years of the GEC program. In my own station, for instance, we had 18 children reintegrated back into the school system last year and 50 candidates in P.7, S.5 and S.6 that have come through the centre. 15 of these had first grades.

These stories of success have not been without challenges. CRANE came to the end of a significant funding cycle from its biggest donor this financial year. The Secretariat, as well as some members of the Network, have had to cut down on staffing and the levels of engagement in the issues affecting children.

We appreciate the staff at the Secretariat who continued to serve diligently and those who finished well. Our hearts and prayers go out to these our brothers and sisters who do not yet have alternate employment.

What Next?

What about this new year? What must we do, and how must we think?

First, we must keep the reason for our existence before us every day. Our commitment is to continue to challenge and support families and communities to keep every child safe, well, and thriving, according to God's plan, helping them to fulfil their God-given potential. We are committed to connecting people, building capacity, delivering collaborative action and maximising children's contributions. We never lose sight of why we do what we do together.

Second, we must stay on our knees. We know that it has been God's hand that has brought us thus far. It is by his hand that a thriving future is possible. So, let us pray for the Secretariat and the individual members of CRANE. Let us pray for the challenge of keeping House of Joy afloat as a support to the whole Network.

Third, we must maintain accountability and transparency. We thank God for the Secretariat staff who have handled our finances well and received a clean audit every year. We are also grateful for those network members who have applied the donor funds to the designated causes with integrity. Trust is a key commodity for working together and raising resources for the work before us.

Fourth, we must face the reality of the season we are living in. World over, foreign donor dynamics have changed. In addition to taking deliberate steps to leverage the changes, we need to continue developing internal sources of revenue to survive this challenge.

Lastly, we must maintain focus on our target group. Whatever happens in the funding world, the vulnerabilities of children in our world are only set to get worse. Therefore, we cannot afford to get discouraged, relax or give up. We must "keep our hand on the hoe".

Andrew Mwenge
Board Chair

CRANE’s Leadership Reports

CRANE’s Executive Director

As we celebrate two decades of unwavering commitment to the wellbeing and development of children at risk in Uganda, I am filled with immense gratitude for the dedication and hard work of our network members and partners.

Life In All Its Fullness

Our work to ensure children experience life in all its fulness follows a three-pronged approach:

1. **SAFETY:** We want all children to have Safe Spaces, so we are creating and maintaining environments where children are protected from harm and can thrive.
2. **THRIVING:** We want all children to be thriving in families, so we are strengthening family units and promoting the importance of family belonging for children.
3. **LEARNING:** We want all children in to benefit from quality education, so we are ensuring that children have access to quality schools, quality catch up education, and quality learning support for every child.

Expanding Our Reach and Impact

Over the past year, CRANE has made remarkable strides in advocating for children’s rights, providing essential services, and fostering community development. Our network of 229 dedicated organisations – including 149 registered members and 80 partners – has reached over 247,170 children, offering them the support and opportunities they need to thrive. We are thankful for our donors who have given the funds trusting us to use them well and we have.

CRANE has significantly expanded its presence, particularly in Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono districts, with outreach extending to regions like Karamoja, Mubende, Mbale, and Gulu. This growth is a testament to the dedication of our members and partners.

A Diverse Network with a Unified Mission

Our diverse network includes organisations that collaborate on various initiatives aimed at creating safe and nurturing environments where children can flourish. Whether it’s advocating for children’s rights, rescuing and rehabilitating vulnerable children, or providing education and psychosocial support, our members are making a tangible difference.

CRANE members engage in a variety of activities that ensure the holistic development of children. These activities include child protection, education, family support, health, legal support, livelihood, and mental health and well-being. For instance, 42 members offer child protection services, addressing issues such as child abuse, domestic violence, street children, and child trafficking.

A cornerstone of our network’s capacity-building efforts is the Quality Improvement Systems programme. Designed to support organisations, schools, and churches, QIS helps them improve the quality of their work with children by incorporating biblical principles and international standards. This year, we welcome 74 members to the QIS Alumni of the network. There are now 179 CRANE members that have completed QIS since 2006.

Working Groups

Our working groups are the heartbeat of CRANE’s collaborative efforts. This year, four active working groups engaged a total of 102 members on a quarterly basis. These groups, focused on church activities, education, street-connected children, and crisis response, have led to impactful initiatives such as capacity-building workshops, exchange visits, and joint advocacy campaigns.

Celebrating Milestones and Looking Ahead

As we celebrate 20 years of CRANE’s work, we are reminded of the countless lives that have been touched and transformed through our collective efforts. This milestone is not just a testament to our past achievements but a foundation for even greater impact in the future. We are especially grateful for the House of Joy Proprietors who have entrusted us with the continuation and management of their school, allowing us to integrate educational opportunities and therapy that is accessible for all children.

Project Space has been fenced off, and we have already planted some trees with the aim of planting more. We are about to embark on constructing a building that will host a few children at a time for day trips. We will share more details about this exciting development as it progresses.

Moving Forward Together

As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission and vision. Together, we are bigger, better, more lasting, and louder. We look forward to continuing our journey, united in our purpose to create transformational change for children at risk in Uganda.

Thank you for being a part of the CRANE family. Whether you have been with us for the last 20 years or have joined more recently, your support and dedication are invaluable. Let’s continue to make a difference, one child at a time, and strive towards even greater impact in the years to come.

With gratitude,
Faith Kembabazi, Executive Director

CRANE's Status Reports

CRANE's Vision and Mission

Children at Risk Action Network (CRANE) is a network of 149 local faith-based organisations working with children at risk in Uganda. CRANE members collaborate together to help keep children safe.

Our Vision is to see that **Children** are **Safe, Well, and Thriving** in God's Plan as they fulfil their **God-Given Potential**.

Our Mission drives us forward. We desire to **Connect People**, to **Build Quality Capacity**, **Deliver Collective Action** and **Build City Influence** to maximise children's contributions.

Our Model of Operation is simple: We want to help create a shared vision amongst individual members that signposts common priorities, so that together we provide quality care for children and creative solutions to persistent problems to see transformational change for children. This model will promote the role of children in finding solutions and advocating for child rights and child protection.

Life in its fullness for all children will be realised through CRANE's work because we can achieve more by working together.

When we work together, we have a **BIGGER** vision for change with the potential to achieve more together than we could do alone.

We are **BETTER** when we work together and can reach more children more holistically.

When we work together, our work we do becomes more **LASTING**.
We are more sustainable and more able to continue caring for children for the long term.

And we are **LOUDER** when we work together.
We are more visible and able to influence systemic change.

CRANE's Members

In the year 2023-2024, the network engaged a total of **229 organisations**. Of these, 149 were organisations that have registered as members of the network, while 80 were non-network members but partners involved in the implementation of specific projects such as the Girl's Education Challenge Project and the Children in Families Project. The 229 organisations were made up of 61 Churches, 40 Schools, 31 Child Care institutions, 17 community-based organisations (CBOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and 80 other partners.

The work of CRANE members and the network has had a significant impact across the country. The majority of network members are based in Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono districts, with outreaches extending to other regions such as Karamoja, Mubende, Mbale, and Gulu districts.

CRANE network members work together on a variety of initiatives, all focused on creating safe and nurturing environments where children can flourish. Their efforts encompass advocating for children's rights, safety, and overall wellbeing, family strengthening, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and psychosocial support.

Child Protection • 42 Members offering referrals

Problems addressed:
- Child abuse (physical, sexual, neglect)
- Domestic violence (with children involved)
- Street children

Services offered:
- Anti-trafficking
- Support for early pregnancy
- Support for HIV/AIDS affected and infected children

Education • 18 Members offering referrals

- Children at risk of not attending school
- Children in school needing support
- School fees
- Referring special needs learners to specialised institutions

Family Support • 22 Members offering referrals

- Children at risk of marriage
- Family struggles
- Marital disagreements with child involvement
- Orphaned/abandoned children needing placement
- Emergency shelter
- Rehabilitation
- Reintegration
- Counselling
- Foster care and adoption

Health • 28 Members offering referrals

- Medical needs
- Malnourished children
- Pre-natal care for at-risk pregnancies

Legal support • 12 Members offering referrals

- Children in conflict with the law
- Children in contact with the law
- Police referrals
- Pro-bono legal services

Livelihoods • 8 Members offering referrals

- Household poverty
- Economic empowerment

Mental Health & Wellbeing • 32 Members offering referrals

- Mental health challenges
- Emotional needs
- Psychosocial support
- Counselling and guidance

CRANE's Reach

CRANE Members have **2,369 dedicated volunteers and staff** who are actively working within the network to impact communities and create safe spaces for children to flourish. CRANE partner organisations are reaching at least **96,870 children** through the CRANE programs, and over **247,170 children** were impacted through all network initiatives in the past year.

CRANE members work together on a variety of initiatives that focus on creating safe and nurturing environments where children can flourish. Their efforts include: advocating for children's rights, safety, and wellbeing; rescue and rehabilitation; empowerment and skilling; education and catch-up learning; strengthening families and promoting sustainable livelihoods; helping communities break the cycle of poverty; providing psychosocial support. Out of 149 members, 54 members offer referral services to other organisations.

"The network has significantly expanded our presence in the community. As a new, small organisation, our activities hadn't yet taken hold. However, the opportunity to implement the STAND Project greatly increased our reach. The project's aspects made it easy to connect with both children and caregivers, increasing both our visibility and impact. Even as the project ends, we will retain some of these features."
DEWI Stronger Communities

CRANE's Working Groups

A key driver of collaboration within the network is our system of quarterly working group meetings. Working group meetings provide a platform for member organisations who are united by a common cause to share their expertise and amplify their collective voice. This year, four active working groups have engaged 102 members on a quarterly basis. Each group has elected its own leadership team and developed a plan to guide its activities. These working groups have developed a variety of initiatives, including capacity building workshops, exchange visits, and joint advocacy campaigns.

Number	Working group	Number engaged	Number Not engaged
1	Church Working Group	57	4
2	Education Working Group	26	14
3	Street-connected Working Group	11	12
4	Crisis Response Working Group	8	0

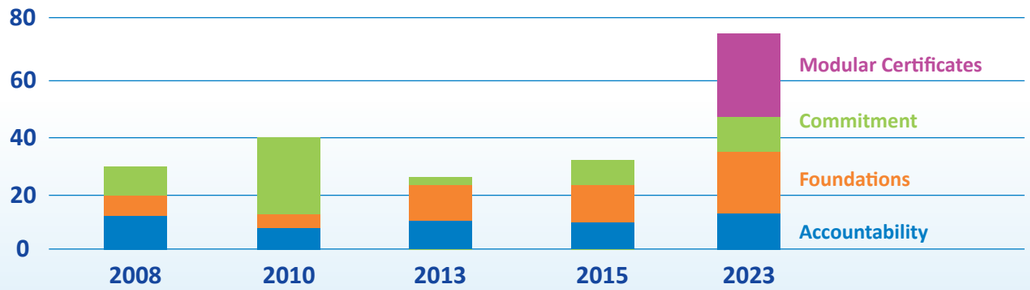
"There's a saying, "iron sharpens iron," and that's exactly what happened for me when I hosted the education working group meeting In June 2023. After the meeting, fellow head teachers toured our school. It was fantastic! They shared great ideas about what we were doing well, but they also pointed out some areas where we could improve, especially regarding safety on the school grounds. These were things I hadn't noticed before. Together with the school management team, we took their feedback seriously. It's now our top priority to fix those safety issues. We're working hard to brainstorm solutions so our school can be an even safer place for all our students."
Headteacher, Divine Hope Primary School

"We bless the Lord that now the church is more relevant in the community, since it has helped many people to learn how to save money for future use and many are starting up income generating projects and through loans parents are able to educate their children and putting up permanent houses!"
Church Pastor

CRANE's Delivery of the Quality Improvement System

Viva's Quality Improvement System is offered by CRANE to all its members as the best capacity building programme to support organisations, schools and churches to make sustainable improvements in the quality of their work with children. It introduces biblical principles and international standards into children's work. CRANE staff then help to mentor members through a journey of quality improvement. Following the 2020 AGM strategy requiring all members to participate, we're thrilled to report that 74 out of 85 members who enrolled have now successfully completed the QIS cycle. This is the fifth round of QIS training that has been completed my members since 2006.

Number of CRANE Members Completing QIS



CRANE's Progress Reports

CRANE's Children Are Safer

CRANE's STAND Project 2022-2023

Our 'SAFE' outcomes are to Safeguard, Tend, Advocate, Nurture and Defend children in our members. The Financial Year saw this work transition from the 2-year "STAND Project" to the 3-year "John 10:10 Project."

The STAND Project targeted children 8-17 years in 21 members, with their caregivers/guardians, organisational/school leaders, teachers/mentors, and child protection actors at the community and national level. Children have learned about protection rights and how to survive and thrive in safe, inclusive families, schools, and communities. This has enabled them to find their voice regarding different child rights and responsibilities and know how to stay safe, where to get help if they feel unsafe, and how to engage in decision-making. They were able to create engaging media pieces to share their knowledge with others.

Achievements

Safeguarding

- 21 mentors were identified to take the lead in safe guarding in 21 communities. These mentors were trained in safeguarding/child protection, phone mentoring, the importance of child participation, inclusion, creating safe spaces for children at school, and environmental management and equipped to serve as safeguarding officers.
- 336 cases (183 male, 143 female) were handled in different communities through the Child Protection Committees.

"As the mentor, I learned a lot of things in this project. I got to know more about the rights of children in Uganda and internationally. I learned new skills in the problem-solving process and also case management. Many parents have become my friends and children due to the phone mentoring programme, and they still call or come to me in case of any problems. I learned to advocate for children's rights in my community, and people call me a counsellor because I used to do talk shows on our community radios. My self-esteem, confidence, and social skills increased because I have been engaging with different people from my community to the top most."
Nicholas, Mukisa Foundation

Children's Rights

- 420 (205 male, 215 female) direct beneficiary children have been empowered to become child rights ambassadors through child-led advocacy. In addition to which 1,200 other indirect beneficiaries, were trained and participated in Safe Club activities.
- 578 children received birth certificates after presenting all the required information to the government of Uganda by working with NIRA.
- 20 children (7 male, 13 female) were equipped with the skills and knowledge to express their rights by creating music, dance, and creative media pieces during workshops. The Child Ambassadors composed songs advocating for their rights and taught their fellow children about their rights.
- 250 (120 male, 130 female) children and 38 (15 male, 23 female) mentors learned about the rights and importance of a clean environment. The children and mentors planted at least 1,000 trees and led other environment friendly initiatives.

"I have learned about children's rights, the methods to follow when writing for advocacy, and poems. I have learned how to capture pictures and videos. I am going to use the camera skill in case I see a child being abused I am now able to capture a photo or video as evidence for the police so that the child can get justice."
Angel, Highway College School

"The children's parliaments have encouraged children to report to us issues that affect them, like child abuse cases in homes and parents neglecting their responsibilities like paying school fees and providing food."
Mugerwa, Child and Family Protection Officer, Lugazi

Advocacy

- The Child Ambassadors participated in the commemoration of advocacy days which included: Day of the African Child (16 June), Day of the Girl Child (13 October), and the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (SRSG-VAC) on 23 September 2023.
- 4,255 (1,988 male, 2,267 female) Child Ambassadors held children's parliament sessions through which they engaged 27 duty bearers, and 359 (144 male, 215 female) parents. These empowered and allowed children to voice their concerns and ideas.

- We used the community radio broadcasts to communicate messages about child rights to reach many people in each of the 21 communities in a short time. These happened in July and November 2022 and April and May 2023. It's estimated that if a message is played using the community radio platforms, it reaches 20,000-60,000 people in a particular community.
- Each of the 21 communities hosted a discussion session with one duty bearer and one Child Protection Committee member, who shared their responsibility of protecting children from abuse and reminded listeners where to report child abuse cases. On average, 2,000 people were reached in each of the 21 communities.
- 467 (196 male, 271 female) children and 385 (111 male, 274 female) adults were engaged in annual performance activities. The children had an opportunity to exercise their right to participate in the different activities.

Parent's Engagements

- 525 (105 male, 420 female) parents/guardians to the direct beneficiary were educated about safeguarding and children's rights. Parents also received training in positive parenting, alternative disciplines, prevention of gender-based violence and family planning.
- 611 (168 male, 443 female) adults were members of 16 Village Savings and Loans Associations which have received various trainings, and the funds from the savings groups have been used to meet basic family needs, support children's education and offering psychosocial support to the members.

"On the side of the implementers, the school has banned the use of corporal punishment and advocated for alternative discipline. The CPC team has now become the 'police of the village' in cases where children's rights are abused/violated. The local council leaders have reduced corruption since children, parents, and all stakeholders know the legal procedures for handling sexual abuse."

Samuel, Mentor, Nabitalo Secondary School

"The children can now play with the disabled ones and also care for them. The parents now feel safe to stay with their disabled children. The school has also started giving admissions to children with disabilities."

Mentor, Nabitalo Secondary School

Inclusiveness

- 117 (49 male, 68 female) children with disabilities received appropriate assessment and support to access inclusive education. Their teachers were trained in inclusive education and how to adapt the skills of teaching children with disabilities to improve learning. Individual Education Support Plans were designed.
- 42 (18 male, 24 female) teachers received comprehensive training in inclusion. The main objective was to enhance the teaching skills of teachers, empowering them with knowledge and skills to easily identify the special educational needs of learners in their care and create engaging and effective learning environments for them.

Abuse Case Management, Justice and Safe Spaces

- 301 (135 male, 166 female) officials from the five duty bearer agencies in the Justice, Law, and Order Sector (JLOS) were empowered to provide children with more child-friendly justice services.
- 251 (228 male, 13 female) children in conflict with the law received legal support.
- 1,068 (838 male, 230 female) children were rescued from abusive environments.
- 474 (401 male, 73 female) were placed in childcare institutions for rehabilitation, while 594 (444 male, 150 female) were resettled back home or supported at a family level.
- 108 (56 male, 52 female) participants attended 3 dialogues organised in Kampala, Mpigi, Mukono, and Nakawa to bring together the five-state law institutional officers to discuss and agree on how best they can streamline child protection systems.
- 80 (51 male, 29 female) KCCA enforcement officers participated in a Safeguarding and Prevention of Trafficking In Persons training.
- 75 participants (24 male, 51 female) from the Uganda Police Force participated in a two-day training where they were equipped with practical knowledge and skills on effectively implementing the Children Diversion Guidelines 2019, which will lead to the quick dismissal of petty cases through the diversion law.

- 33 judges (17 male, 18 female) were given the skills and knowledge to handle children's cases that get to their offices. They committed to listening actively and following through with children's issues before passing judgment.
- 40 (11 male, 29 female) magistrates were equipped with best practices for handling children during a two-day. The knowledge and skills acquired will greatly benefit the officers as they handle children who go to court.

Quality Improvement Systems

- 49 (21 male, 28 female) project implementing partners from the 21 communities were trained in the six Viva modules in the Quality Improvement System (QIS). These are People Care, Child Protection, Child wellbeing, Project Planning and Management, Governance, and Finance Training.

Lessons Learnt

- Families and local leaders need continual reminders about their responsibility to keep children safe such that they are not expecting material gain from the cases being handled.
- Setting up of Village Savings and Loans Associations should greatly take into consideration the unique characteristics and opportunities within the communities to ensure parents greatly benefit.
- Community leaders and members should continually be engaged and reminded of their responsibility to act in environmentally friendly ways, clearly highlighting simple adjustments that they can make starting in their homes.
- Explaining to the parents that their children had some disability was not easy. Those who accepted the results expected further support apart from the referrals made for further check-ups when needed.

"The only sustainable way for government institutions to prioritise child case management safeguarding is by having the government commit resources to this cause. As political and technical teams, this falls in our mandate during planning and budgeting."

Godfrey, Speaker, Nakawa Division

"We have put into practice what we learned after the financial management training; bringing a bursar on board, orienting all the new teachers about the Child Protection Policy. Now there is segregation of duties in the administration unlike before when the headmaster handled finance responsibilities and the school started nominating eligible people to sit on the Governance Board."

Annet, Mentor, Highway College School

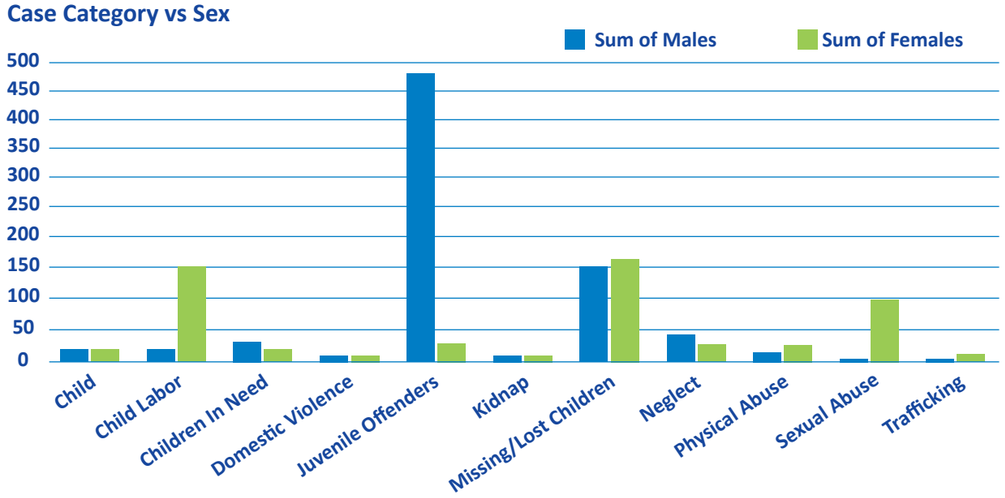
CRANE's Coordination of Safeguarding Cases

CRANE collaborated with CRANE members, partners, Probation Officers, police stations, the Office of Public Prosecution, Naguru Remand Home and Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre in the last year.

CRANE handled 1,274 child safeguarding cases for 747 boys and 527 girls.

Case Category	Boys	Girls	Total
Child Abandonment/Desertion	19	19	38
Child Labour	19	144	163
Children in Need (Medical)	28	14	42
Domestic Violence	5	2	7
Juvenile Offenders	464	28	492
Kidnap	1	1	2
Missing/Lost Children	152	159	311
Neglect	39	31	70
Physical Abuse	14	22	36
Sexual Abuse	2	98	100
Trafficking	4	9	13
TOTALS	747	527	1274

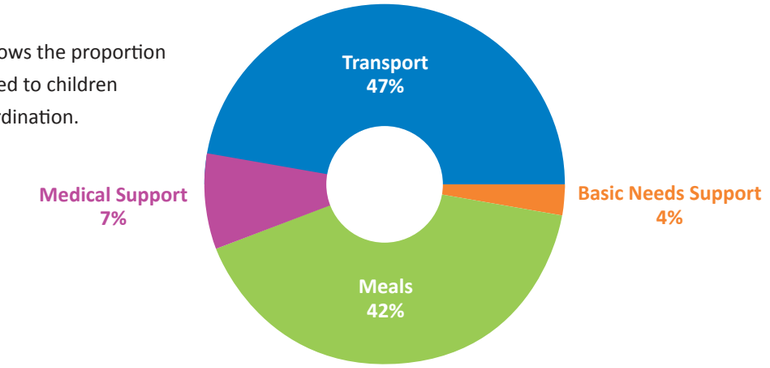
Case Category vs Sex



In the process of managing cases, children have different needs that need to be met for their wellbeing and safety, including medical examination and treatment, especially for sexual abuse victims. Juvenile offenders need food during case coordination. Transport is needed during the arrest of perpetrators, case hearings and reintegration of children. Basic needs are provided for abandoned children. Note, the number of services does not tally with the number of cases handled because one child could receive more than one service, depending on the need.

Service/Intervention	Total
Basic needs support	126
Meals	1539
Medical support	270
Transport	1727

The pie chart shows the proportion of services offered to children during case coordination.



Juvenile Offenders

492 juvenile offenders (464 boys and 28 females) at Naguru Remand Home were helped to appear in courts rather than being left on remand for years. The juvenile offenders are being held on charges of aggravated defilement, defilement, robbery, aggravated robbery, theft, house breaking, grievous harm and criminal trespass.

Alternative Care

43 children were placed in Child Care Institutions for care and safety as they awaited family tracing. Most of these were victims of abandonment and neglect. Child Care Institutions who received children are listed below. Some of these are CRANE members.

Good Future CCI
LISA CCI Mutundwe
Nsambya Babies' Home
Sanyu Babies' Home
Wakisa Ministries
Ewaffe, Luweero
Rafiki Ministries
Sozo CCI
Teresa Home
Sanyu Babies' Home
AGLOM
Loving Hearts
Teresa Home
Action Aid
UNCR

Reintegration

611 children were reintegrated in the different districts of Uganda in the regions of Central, Eastern, Western, South Western, Northern, North Eastern and West Nile. These children were mainly victims of child labour, neglect and missing/lost children. We also supported Kampiringisa Rehabilitation Centre to resettle 67 children who were in conflict with the law who completed their sentence.

Reintegration of children in contact with the law by region:

Region	Male	Female	Total
Central Region	167	159	326
Eastern Region	32	86	118
Northern and North Eastern	12	20	32
West Nile	3	8	11
Western/ S. Western	40	84	124
TOTALS	254	357	611

Children reintegrated from Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre:

No	Region	Male	Female	Total
1	Central Region	167	159	326
2	Eastern Region	32	86	118
3	Northern and North Eastern	12	20	32
4	West Nile	3	8	11
5	Western/ S. Western	40	84	124
	TOTALS	254	357	611

CRANE's Children Are Thriving In Families

CRANE's Children Belong In Families Project 2021-2023

We have worked together to support children live in safe and loving families. This has been through empowering the church to provide Primary Care Services, bolster Social Care networks to provide Secondary Care Services, and strengthen Government services to provide Tertiary Care Services. In this past year, 56 churches, 17 organisations and various partners were engaged in this work to prevent family separation, prepare loving families to rescue and support parentless children, and protect children who have lost the care of a family by addressing the increased risk of childhood adversity and violence, strengthening their recovery and resilience.

Achievements

Children Rights and Safeguarding

- 497 children and 60 adults were engaged in a child ambassadors' workshop.
- 682 child safeguarding cases handled, with referrals made to ensure children were well supported.
- 267 children were rescued and reintegrated with families.

Training Church Leaders

- An average of 40 church leaders were engaged in various trainings that included positive parenting, child protection, financial stewardship for the church and family, basic biblical counselling, marriage enrichment, foster care and adoption, and the importance of children belonging in families.
- 59 church leaders participated in a marriage conference organised for network pastors and their wives.

Child Friendly Churches

- An average of 42 Sunday school teachers were engaged in various trainings that included: starting and running safe clubs, life skills, child protection and safe guarding and how to deliver child friendly and fun lessons.
- 1,280 children and 452 adults participated in the World Weekend of Prayer.

Family Strengthening

- An average of 37 church family advocates received training in handling marital conflict and basic biblical counselling.
- 187 church leaders and parents trained in intentional parenting using the Good Treatment Campaign.

"Two of the children we recruited for the Child Ambassador project recently brought to our attention the situation of 3 young boys from their community who were being left home alone. Their father is a single parent who leaves early in the morning to go fend for his family. The boys are often left alone with no food, without even taking a bath. We started taking meals and care for the boys during day time. We are trying to get hold of the father, though not yet successful, because he often returns late in the night."

Sunday School Teacher for Global Revival Church

"When I was starting this church, my thoughts had never considered the children. As such, my focus was on the adults. After several of CRANE's trainings with a focus on children, I came to understand and see the importance of children in a different light. We arranged for children's church and allocated an area for them to start meeting. We have come to realise that they are the future of generations to come."

Pastor Samuel at Peniel Christian Foundation

"The CRANE training received on how to prepare for lessons and teach children helped us to understand the importance of grouping children according to age groups. Before the training all children were taught under one room, however on realising that children at different age groups have different needs in terms of how they are taught. We separated our Sunday school class into 3 according to their ages."

Sunday School Teacher from Transform Church

"After I attended the session on marital counselling and handling family finances, I resolved to try out the principles learnt. When I started applying what was taught, our communication improved as well as how we handle finances. We meet to plan for the family regularly and give responsibilities based on who is better suited to take charge of a task."

Family advocate from Christian Care Church

Promoting Foster Care and Adoption

- 56 foster parents received training to understand the legal processes of foster care.
- 25 foster children and their parents from 8 churches had a family boding and shared learning event.
- 90 congregations participated in Adoption Sunday by taking time to pray for and give gifts to orphans.
- 12 families caring for 12 foster children have been supported by CRANE staff through phone calls and payment of school fees.
- Approximately 200 participants gathered for the Adoption Awareness Conference under the theme, 'Bringing Hope to a Generation through Adoption'. Although most of these were either adoptive and foster parents, we also had representation from 31 NGOs and 5 Government Institutions.

Denominations and Partnerships

- 66 Clergy from the Church of Uganda were trained in child protection and the Alternative Care Framework.
- 408 leaders were engaged in a marriage conference organised in partnership with the Bible Society of Uganda.
- 35 leaders from Uganda Assemblies of God were engaged in two 3-day child-focused workshops.

Christmas Parties

- 2,858 people were engaged in Christmas party celebrations which were also used as opportunities to reach children within various church communities.

Social Workers

- 17 Social Workers trained in Case management and 15 were trained in Child development and counselling.
- 16 organisational caregivers and 3 social workers were trained in child psychology and positive discipline.

Lessons Learnt

- Training more than one individual per church/organisation. staff turnover in some of the partner churches and organisations affected delivery. Some had been transferred to other congregations while others had their roles changed. Many of the new staff needed catch up sessions while others didn't fully understand the project and what we were working together to achieve.
- Clear workplans that are communicated to partners enables them plan to be part of the project activities and trainings.
- Giving clear assignments after the training helps partners put into practice the lessons that they are learning.
- Translating resources such as training notes to local languages can be beneficial for partners are they engage local communities and pass on key messages.

CRANE's John 10:10 Project 2023-2027

The John 10:10 Project has now begun, working with a wider range of members who are running churches, schools and other organisations. CRANE has also taken a leadership role in helping the Viva Partner Networks in Mwanza and Kisumu to develop their work with churches as a part of this John 10:10 Project.

The outcomes remain focused on safety and thriving:

- Children are Safe – Children live free from abuse (Protection). Children will feel safer and Organisations will be better at managing cases of abuse
- Children are Thriving in Families. Children have better levels of wellbeing (Health and Wellbeing). Children will develop greater personal resilience and Children and their carers will have better mutual relationships

We are working together as three networks in Kampala, Mwanza and Kisumu to build strong local child-focused networks that will positively impact the lives of at least 150,000 at-risk children by ensuring they are safe and thriving and by giving them the skills and support they need to know and exercise their basic child rights.

Here, we have engaged all our network members through vision-casting engagements during which we shared the project outcomes, and planned interventions for them to make informed decisions before signing up to be part of the project. 77 (37M, 40F) leaders of agencies turned up to the vision casting meetings, of which 58 have confirmed being interested in implementing the project.

Achievements

- 126 cases (rescue, rehabilitate, and reintegrate) were reached out together with Police in the central region of the country. Plus, the public institutions that rehabilitate children; Naguru Remand Home and Kampiringisa Rehabilitation Centre for Children in conflict with the law.
- 41 children from the 126 cases were reintegrated back with their families. The rest were supported with other services such as transport, medical support, meals, basic needs, and placed with child care institutions for rehabilitation.
- 64 church leaders were trained on Why Children Matter which helped them appreciate the value God places on children such that churches can also view them in this light.
- 29 church leaders from 29 Churches were trained on how to provide biblical counselling to children and adults so as to respond ably to trauma caused by abuse.
- 23 Pastors and 38 Sunday School Teachers from 39 Churches received an overview training on Child Friendly Church
- 33 Church leaders were taken through a marriage seminar handling the following topics: Looking at Jesus Christ as our example, handling finances, and handling conflict in marriage. This helps the church leaders appreciate God's Heart for children to live in safe and loving families.
- 29 church leaders went through a training on cultivating healthy relationships in families and in the church
- 48 children's ministry leaders attended at training on passing on values, focusing on the truth module which is the foundation for other values such as honesty, purity, self-control, obedience, forgiveness, responsibility and respect.
- Each of the 48 participants were given a pack to teach the truth module and when they finish that, they are given resources to teach the other values.
- 82 Children's ministry leaders were trained on understanding the way children learn.
- 200 participants from all over Uganda engaged in a 1-day adoption awareness conference under the theme 'Bringing Hope to a Generation through Adoption'. This brought together 31 non-government organisations, 5 government institutions and many adoptive and potential adoptive parents.

"Our church has gained a lot from being part of the Network, and not just the project. We have been able to save 3 lives of babies which was all made possible through network connection, the probation officers and social workers."

Pastor, Freedom Care Church

"I encountered a young woman facing a difficult situation: pregnant at a young age (16 years) and feeling alone. Fearful of judgment and misinformation, she had initially considered unsafe options. Recognising her vulnerability, I encouraged her to explore healthier paths. Together, we visited the KCCA Kisugu health unit, where she received compassionate counselling and essential prenatal care. Witnessing her strength and willingness to seek help filled me with hope. I am happy that I can play a part in supporting young women navigate challenging circumstances and embrace motherhood."

Sarah, a peer educator

CRANE's Beginnings Project 2012+

CRANE works with Viva on the Beginnings project. The focus of this project is to ensure the survival of mothers and babies in the first 1000 days of life with a focus on Namuwongo and Bwaise communities. CRANE's project empowers mothers with knowledge and confidence to navigate essential health practices. Key to this work are thirteen peer educators who work tirelessly to share critical health messages in the two communities.

Achievements

- 13 peer educators have engaged in two capacity building trainings that have focussed on non-communicable diseases and sudden unexpected infant death.
- 506 households have been reached out to through one-on-one home visits, engaging 719 caregivers, benefitting 1198 children;
- 590 men have been reached out to with essential maternal health information through community focus group meetings;
- Collaborative partnerships with local health service providers has allowed peer educators o effectively cascade MCH information, build community trust, and make referrals easily.

Lessons Learnt

- Make project expectations clear to the beneficiaries. Many families continued to expect handouts to the extent that some families rejected the program due to lack of immediate material benefits.
- Families moving frequently makes it difficult for peer educators to follow up and maintain consistent support, potentially impacting program effectiveness.
- There is a need to increase awareness in men about their role in maternal health, potentially impacting family support and decision-making. This could lead to more male participation in health education and antenatal visits.

Esther's Story

Esther, a peer educator, noticed signs of malnutrition in children during monthly focus group meetings with their mothers. She decided to take action by organising a team of volunteers and health workers to educate and support mothers on the topic of malnutrition. Using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes, they identified malnourished children and provided crucial support for mothers whose children fell within the red or yellow zones. They facilitated referrals to specialised hospitals (like Mwana Mujimu in Mulago,) for proper care and provided valuable lessons on nutritious meals for children in the green zone. The impact has been significant, with the identified children now flourishing and mothers actively taking control of their children's health. The once-feared task of immunization is now embraced, with mothers willingly taking their children for vaccinations.

CRANE's Children Are Learning Faster

CRANE's Girls' Education Challenge Transition Project 2017-2024

Between 2017 and 2023 Viva and CRANE worked with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) through the Girls' Education Challenge to help girls improve their literacy and numeracy, life skills and safety. The project also focused on improving school governance and management and making schools safer and more inclusive. The project supported 10,923 marginalised girls and their families through Creative Learning Centres (CLCs) and other initiatives, including mother-daughter and peer clubs. Life skills, career development and vocational training were provided, as well as catch-up classes and learning assistance in literacy and numeracy. The project trained CLC teachers and Learning Support Teachers who were placed at schools to support girls' learning when they transitioned from the CLC to formal schools. The project also focused on strengthening links between the school, community and local government to keep children safe. The project worked closely the Ministry of Education on developing a school monitoring tool, a Learning Needs Identification Tool, and an Education and Resource Assessment Centre run in partnership with Kampala Capital City Authority.

The Project's main activities were as follows:

- Creative Learning Centres (CLCs) were spaces for girls out of school to learn Numeracy and Literacy and increase their confidence in learning through engaging, participatory and creative teaching methods going beyond the traditional chalk-and-talk teaching style.
- Safe Clubs and Child Protection Committees were established at the community level. This included training girls as peer leaders in child rights and advocacy so they could return to their schools and establish Safe Clubs where girls could address local issues. It also saw the establishing of Child Protection Committees in their communities.
- The girls' families were trained in parenting and given psychosocial support and had opportunities to form savings and loan groups and, in some cases, to grow small businesses. The Village Savings and Loans Associations (VLSAs) to allow parents to access low-cost business loans which increased their household incomes.
- The Viva Quality Improvement Scheme (QIS) training method was used to build the capacity of school management and improve child protection, governance, financial accountability, planning, and child wellbeing.

"I really appreciate all the efforts of the organisation towards my education since my 'O' level till I accomplished my 'A' level last year. With my poor background, I didn't have any hope of accomplishing school since my mother couldn't afford my school dues but thank God who used CRANE to raise my hope, and my dreams of becoming a teacher were lit up again.

Thank you very much for preparing meetings and camps where several motivating people would talk to us about a number of things that have helped me become a lady with virtue, who by God's grace, is soon joining Kyambogo University for a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Our teachers and mentors also did a great work, and they laid a good foundation for our future careers as aspiring teachers.

I have nothing to give each of you as a reward, I just pray that the Almighty abundantly blesses each and every person who works with the organisation. Thank you for helping and lifting souls, I pray that God blesses me with the ability to help those with difficulties in studies, the same way I was helped by CRANE."

Beneficiary, Rachel Wakiso

"Working with CRANE allows me to help my mum ensure my siblings remain in school. If it wasn't for CRANE, I wouldn't have become the teacher. This has also helped me learn better ways of dealing with children with different learning abilities and working in an environment with talented people."

Girl

"Teachers now use differentiated teaching methods to cater for all learners and their learning needs. They use various methods of teaching, the learning process becomes interactive and enjoyable, thus a progress in quality teaching. They can now plan lessons, evaluate and give feedback to learners."

Headteacher

- Teacher training and lesson observations for 91 teachers to increase the overall quality of teaching.
- Teachers underwent regular lesson observations using specific criteria.
- A mobile library with 34,812 learning resources visited schools to increase access to reading materials and promote a reading culture.
- IT training was undertaken with teachers and children to build skills relevant to modern society. This included mobile IT library and resource rooms in some CLCs.
- A National Learning Needs Identification Tool was developed with the Special Needs and Inclusive Education Department of the Ministry of Education and Sports to assess children's learning needs early on, ensure proper support is given to children with disabilities, and avoid potential school dropouts.
- The Kampala Capital City Authority Education Assessment and Resource Centre was supported, which helped those with identified special needs, with other interventions for children with special needs occurring in different spheres.
- Safeguarding training was done with key duty bearers, providing safeguarding training on safeguarding awareness, child development and psychology in case management to police, judges and public prosecutors.
- 48 new classrooms and 16 new toilet blocks were built.

"Right now, both children and parents are custodians of children's safety; they will speak up if there is any form of child abuse in the community because of the sensitisation offered to them through the project."
Mentor

"The project made me into a good listener and flexible and self-driven teacher. It boosted my esteem. I always have my learners at heart and look forward to seeing them thrive."
Teacher

Achievements

Improved learning for girls. The Endline Evaluation showed that, across all grades, girls' scores exceeded benchmark targets by an average of 16 points in literacy and 12 points in numeracy (i.e., girls are learning much faster than anticipated, four or five times faster than predicted over the life of the project). This is attributed to activities such as better-managed schools, better quality inclusive teaching, financial support, informal learning through Creative Learning Centres, awareness-raising on education, family relationships and safeguarding.

Improved wellbeing through working with mentors. Mentors played a key role in identifying and supporting girls to transition to the next level of education or employment. They engaged with the girls and their families through visits and offering psychosocial support. They also worked towards ensuring girls were safe.

Improved transition through savings groups. One critical factor for helping girls to continue transitioning through education was supporting girls and their parents to tackle the financial barriers they face to accessing education. The project helped to establish savings groups called Village Savings and Loans Associations (VLSAs), which were linked to schools. This linkage helped in negotiating phased payments of fees and enabled more support and accountability. The VSLAs allowed parents access to low-cost business loans, which helped them develop or start small businesses, thus increasing their household incomes and enabling them to look after and educate their children better. In total, 6,688 girls successfully transitioned back to school and through school, 1,412 went on to vocational and higher level training, and 2,823 were in meaningful work by the end of the project.

Improved opportunities for children with disabilities by developing the Learning Needs Identification Tool. The Learning Needs Identification Tool supported teachers in assessing children's learning needs early on, ensuring proper support is given to children with disabilities, and avoiding potential school dropouts. This Tool has been adopted by the Special Needs and Inclusive Education department at the Ministry of Education and Sports and is now being rolled out nationally through pre-and in-service teacher training. The project worked with the Kampala Capital City Authority to open and manage the first National Education Assessment and Resource Centre. This means that children can now get a formal assessment from specialists, and those who have formerly been excluded from national exams are now able to get the assistance they need to sit exams.

Improved safety for children by delivering training on safeguarding and child protection. The project provided training on safeguarding and case management at four levels: families, schools, communities and systems. All 42 schools and communities now have functioning child protection committees. The project also delivered training to the Public Prosecution Office on safeguarding awareness, child development and psychology in case management. Training was also delivered to family court magistrates and judges in Kampala. Assistance was given to the prosecution services to set up 14 child-friendly rooms across Uganda where a child's testimony can be given without the intimidation of the courts. The Prosecution Office is now funding these rooms from their own budget, with CRANE implementing the set-up of the rooms. The project also provided anatomically correct dolls to the prosecutors to help children report what happened to them. The introduction of these dolls has seen an increase in conviction rates from 51% to 80%.

Sandra's Story

Sandra is 18 years old and had dropped out of school because her mother could not afford to pay her school fees. In 2014 she joined a Creative Learning Centre and learnt how to read and write. She noted, "During the school holidays, we were taught how to sew clothes, make books, soap, and skin creams. Making liquid soap was the most exciting activity because we could make liquid soap in the groups, and each member would share her idea. The following day, the teacher would give us a bottle to sell in the neighbourhood in our community, and I sold each bottle at 1,000 UGX (24p). This helped me save some money. Sometimes, I used the money for buying sanitary pads, clothes and food". She even taught her mother how to make soap. Sandra said her plan is to set up her own business and sell soaps and skin creams. After the training and the initial business experience she felt more confident about her capacities and she had high hopes for herself and her family.

Sharon's Story

After both of her parents died, Sharon stayed with her grandmother. It was during that time that Sharon joined one of the Creative Learning Centres. Whilst there, Sharon was taught numeracy, literacy and how to generate household income. Sharon then worked with her grandmother to implement the skills she had learned and saved money to support her taking of national exams. She went on to enrol in a Modern Nursery Teachers' Institute to undertake an Early Childhood Development course for two years. She was recognised for her exceptional teaching skills, and took a job as a teacher in one of CRANE's partner schools. In the recent elections, Sharon contested for the position of Youth Councillor – and won. She is passionate about empowering other girls with self-confidence to make the most of opportunities they have and to achieve their dream, just like she has done.

Lessons Learnt

What did the project learn?

Ensure child and community participation. Children and communities know what they want, but they may not know how to get it. It takes time and different strategies to enable them to identify their best fit. The project had quarterly and monthly feedback from the girls, their parents, the teachers and the mentors and this helped tailor activities.

Supporting continuous learning. A learning institution is one that grows. The project ran quarterly capacity-building initiatives for all staff and key leaders delivering the project. This enabled a continuum of fresh ideas and allowed flexibility to achieve desired goals.

Providing quality teacher training. Efforts should be made to continuously encourage teachers to provide an enabling environment for all girls regardless of their ability to learn. Continuous evaluation of teachers' competence and areas of development can lead to better learning outcomes for girls. The use of lesson observations, regular training, and the creation of a monitoring tool were key to build a pool of teachers who will be effective in the classroom far beyond the life of the project.

Working with local mentors. Working with mentors who are residents of the communities makes it easier to find girls who are out of school or who are about to fall out of school. Mentors who are not residents of a particular community tend to easily connect with the Local Council leaders.

Identifying learning needs. It is important to invest and support early access to education for all children by prioritising early identification and assessment of learning needs upon school entry. There should be a collaboration between the health and education sectors to ensure this happens. Rolling out the National Learning Needs Identification Tool to all schools across the country is critical.

Reaching the most marginalised children. Provide alternatives to re-accessing education for all marginalised children, especially children with disabilities who have fallen out of mainstream school or invest in alternative transition pathways. For instance, for children with severe intellectual disabilities who have transitioned to home learning should be supported to access assessment and certification for their progress in learning.

Keeping girls' safe. Safeguarding initiatives should take centre stage in all education programming. It is important to ensure that continuous training on safeguarding is provided at school and community level. It is also important to work with government officials to ensure policies and procedures are accessible and operationalised. Education projects and schools need to be encouraged to properly screen all those working with children. Creating Safeguarding Committees, establishing Safe Rooms and training duty bearers is essential to ensure child protection incidents are addressed properly and legally.

Delivering sustained results with value for money. Delivering education interventions within a local network setting is more cost-effective. Investing in training local mentors who then reached multiple girls and families had a multiplier effect, which was cost-effective. Working with the government was the most cost-effective strategy of all because the tools and resources created could positively impact hundreds of thousands of children if rolled out across the Ministry of Education.

CRANE Reaches The House of Lords In London

On Thursday 14th March 2024, Viva and CRANE had the privilege of hosting a small reception in The House of Lords in London to celebrate the successful completion of the GEC Project. Here's what others shared about our work on that evening.

"The Learning was fantastic!"

"It was a need, and they responded to it."

John Rowley
The Lead External Evaluator

About sustainability: When I think about projects that have actually brought about sustainable change in government policy and government procedures over 27 years of evaluating international development projects, I can only count three. This is one of them and has achieved much more than any other.

About adaptations: Suddenly, they notice there's something wrong in the law-and-order sector, and they get involved. And then they create safe spaces for children within the law and order. That wasn't part of the original plan. But it was a need, and they responded to it.

About mentors: I think the mentors are absolutely pivotal to this project. The Network was there, the links were there, it was already possible to meet really good people, locally available to do things for the project.

About replication: It's sheer pragmatism. It wasn't proven and it has been proven. It does work. Now it's being rolled out in nine different countries through the Viva network, another network. It's actually really difficult to do this, to get really good learning from one project delivered to another at the time they need it, when they want it, to try and develop something new.

About inclusion: This project has brought about sustainable change in the key area of special education, how the children are identified and how they're then assessed properly and how they're supported. It's all been changed, at the moment at the Kampala level. And the Ministry of Education has taken it up and is committed to replicating it across the other regions. This is astonishing.

"The mentors are absolutely pivotal to this project."

"This project has brought about sustainable change. It's astonishing."

Courtlin Stoker
An Education Advisor at Cambridge Education, and Girls' Education Challenge Fund Manager

About partnership: What sets Viva and CRANE apart from the rest is the genuine partnership between Viva and Crane. I think it's fair to say that no other project has had that close of a relationship, ensuring that they could deliver collectively, and deliver a project with cohesion, as well as ensure that national organisations had a seat at the table.

About disability: The Education Assessment Resource Centre, the handover to the Ministry of Education, is really a game-changer, providing early assessment to children with special educational needs. This is the only centre in all of Uganda that exists to fulfil that need.

About QIS: The Quality Improvement Systems training, now adopted by many district education officers, supports system change to make schools safer, more inclusive, and improve the quality of teaching and school management.

"I've not seen any programme that is so creative, so interested, and intrinsically on the side of those girls and supporting them."

Emma Sarton
Girls' Education Challenge, Learning Lead

About dreams: So thank you, Viva and CRANE. Thank you for everything that you do in supporting these girls and young women to have and actually realise their dreams. I think it is truly wonderful. And never underestimate the amount that you have taught FCDO, the FM and all of my colleagues about how you actually do that.

About girls: For me, primarily, one of the most amazing things about this particular programme, because this one has made an impression on me like no other, is how it centres the girl. Viva and CRANE have done a HUGE amount of work in that area… I've not seen any programme that is so creative, so interested, and intrinsically on the side of those girls and supporting them.

The Testimony from the Girls

The girls shared with me their reflections on why we need to continue to support at-risk and out-of-school girls. All of them had dropped out of education. Some were living on the streets, had children young, had experienced sexual abuse, had barriers to overcome, and they didn't have any dreams for the future. But now they're realising those dreams. Now, as we've heard, they're SEN teachers, they're musicians, midwives, chefs, business owners and advocates in their community.

These girls are truly inspirational. And what struck me about these young women that I was talking to (Nina, Betty, Florence, Fatuma, Angela and Rose): they all had barriers to overcome and didn't have any dreams for the future. What struck me is the emphasis they placed on being able to have a dream and a vision of a different life. But most importantly, it was having a hand on their shoulder. Someone to support you to have a dream.

And one of the most amazing impacts we've heard today is about their self-confidence, self-esteem. This has grown enormously. Some girls spoke about being seen as garbage and not worth it. They now have a sense of control, independence, they set boundaries, they're not afraid to speak up, assert their rights, not feel ashamed, theycan defend themselves.

"Now they're realising their dreams. These girls are truly inspirational."

"This project offered very good value for money. The project had good results, especially around parents financial planning, effective school management and safer learning. Project activities were relevant. The project developed strong learning assessment centres, identification tools, quality improvement systems and M&E."
GEC Fund Manager

CRANE's Finance Reports

CRANE's Board Treasurer

We are very grateful to the Lord Almighty, who has shown us great mercy in the financial year 2023/24. God has been faithful and He has provided finances and kept us safe. We are thankful to the CRANE Director, the Secretariat Team, our long-time partner Viva Network Africa, implementing partners and donors for their combined efforts to bring CRANE this far and contributing towards CRANE's vision of ensuring that children are safe, well and achieve their God-given potential.

The Comprehensive Income ending 31 March 2024 summary shows that revenue received by CRANE for activities was UGX 4,456,269,835 compared to UGX 7,134,802,716 in the financial year ending March 2023. The Network generated a deficit after tax for the year ended 31 March 2024 of UGX (1,280,337,362) as compared to the 2023 surplus of Uganda shillings 1,174,811,658. However, we are aware that CRANE has to continue to look for more funding to sustain the good practices attained over time to replace some of the UKAID grant and also implement our vision.

My appreciation goes to our donors FCDO, ERIKS and Viva who have contributed financial resources towards the achievement of our goals for the year March 2023-2024. We appreciate the fundraising team for the new programmes such as Life in its Fullness from Eriks and Children Belong in Families (CBIF) from the American Foundation and other Viva partners.

I also thank members, stakeholders, the CRANE Director and her team for the sacrificial efforts toward the growth of CRANE's net worth.

I pray that the Lord will continue to supply resources towards CRANE's strategic plan to achieve her vision.

Treasurer Fred Barungi

Audit Report

Children At Risk Action Network
Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2023

Assets	2024 Ug. Shs	2023 Ug. Shs
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant & Equipment	605,865,602.00	802,026,100.00
Investments	188,789,433.00	—
	802,026,100.00	**802,026,100.00**
CURRENT ASSETS		
Receivables & Prepayments	39,657,900.00	28,449,282.00
Cash and Cash Equivalents	672,762,656.00	2,127,851,295.00
	712,420,556.00	**2,156,300,577.00**
TOTAL ASSETS	**1,507,075,591.00**	**2,958,326,677.00**
Reserves and Liabilities		
RESERVES		
Accumulated Fund	792,244,760.00	2,203,150,037.00
Capital Grant	—	110,131,498.00
Revaluation Reserve	625,600,874.00	625,600,874.00
	1,417,845,635.00	**1,166,025,292.00**
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Payables and Accruals	89,229,955.00	19,444,268.00
	89,229,955.00	**19,444,268.00**
TOTAL RESERVES & LIABILITIES	**1,507,075,591.00**	**2,958,326,677.00**

Children At Risk Action Network (CRANE)
Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Revenue	2024 Ug. Shs	2023 Ug. Shs
Local Income	280,100,728.00	255,498,097.00
Contributions to Use of Assets	17,610,241.00	15,936,801.00
Contributions to Office Space	49,961,947.00	65,955,219.00
Grants	4,055,690,462.00	6,700,451,868.00
Interest & Other Income	52,906,458.00	96,960,731.00
	4,456,269,835.00	**7,134,802,716.00**
Less: Expenses		
SECRETARIAT EXPENSES		
Organisational Costs	(77,966,650.00)	(77,563,767.00)
Payroll Expenses	2,753,111,146.00	3,006,478,341.00
General Expenses	702,140,930.00	539,331,530.00
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
Local Travel Costs	39,192,418.00	24,356,400.00
Trainings, Workshops, Seminars & Follow-ups	329,305,687.00	258,335,694.00
Meetings, Conferences, Networks & Field visits	67,922,797.00	117,585,064.000
Specialised Contractural Services	1,204,312,180.00	1,252,418,715.00
Vehicle Operating & Maintenance Costs	408,386,733.00	353,086,861.00
Monitoring & Evaluation Costs	129,114,929.00	249,883,384.00
Project Administration Costs	402,421,506.00	467,399,008.00
House of Joy	14,930,250.00	—
Finance Costs	4,434,683.00	4,768,867.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	**5,977,306,610.00**	**6,196,080,097.00**
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**1,521,036,774.00**	**938,722,619.00**
Extra Ordinary Income	240,699,412.00	236,089,040.00
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	**1,280,337,362.00**	**1,174,811,659.00**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Children at Risk Action Network which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in reserves and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Children at Risk Action Network as at 31 March 2024, its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and the Companies' Act 2012.

CRANE's Partners

Grants from Donors

The Directors express their appreciation for the continued support received from donors. The following were the donations received during the year:

Donor	Project	2024 Amount in UGX	2023 Amount in UGX
FCDO	Girls Education Challenge-Transition (GEC-T)	2,796,600,762	5,301,535,655
ERIKS	Children in Safe Spaces – Life in its Fullness	260,383,286	–
ERIKS	STAND	737,650,138	1,052,350,535
Viva Network Africa	Families For Children (FFC)	12,465,902	35,089,572
Viva Network Africa	Maternal Child and Health (MCH)	10,119,814	19,955,767
First Fruit	Children Belonging in Families (CBIF)	227,382,195	328,872,625
Viva Network Africa	Quality Improvement Systems (QIS)	20,613,656	–
American Foundation	Life in its Fullness	39,262,528	–
TOTALS		**4,104,478,282**	**6,042,688,076**

- Chatham Evangelical Church
- Karen Amery, Catherine Jukes and Friends
- Tanterton Christian Fellowship
- Wonersh Parish Church
- Tess Trewinnard
- Peaslake School
- Kathy Hart
- And many other friends

Bankers

DFCU Bank Uganda Limited, Kampala,Uganda
Equity Bank Uganda Limited, Kampala, Uganda
Housing Finance Bank Uganda Limited, Kampala, Uganda

CRANE would like to thank its partners for their support in the past year:

Viva Africa

CRANE is one of 45 Networks Worldwide that connect together through Viva. Viva supports networks through capacity building and training for networks. Viva also helps with programme design and raising funds for the networks. There are five other networks in Africa connected to Viva Africa.

Ugandan Partners

- Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
- Ministry of Education and Sports
- Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Sports
- National Child Protection Committee
- National Council for Children

CRANE's Governance and Legal Status

CRANE is a legally registered entity both as a non-government organisation (NGO) and a Company limited by guarantee (non-profit) as follows:

- NGO Registration number: INDR91864009NB.
- NGO Permit: INDP87354009NB.
- Company Registration Number: 80020000712920.

CRANE is compliant with the legal requirements both as an NGO and Company Limited by Guarantee:

- Annual NGO returns are up to date, with the latest being on **30 September 2023**.
- CRANE is listed on the **Updated National NGO Register (UNNR)** No: 373.
- Annual company returns were submitted in March 2023 **under approval notice G230428-0943**.
- CRANE is registered with Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA) under the registration number **FIA-14-000218**.
- CRANE is registered with the Personal Data Protection Office under the registration number **PDPO-202210-0559**.

CRANE's Board of Directors in 2023-24

CRANE is grateful for the Board of Directors, with each one providing Godly leadership in a governance role.

Pastor Andrew Mwenge Chairperson
Fred Barungi Treasurer
Florence Namaganda Vice Chairperson
Paul Kabunga Secretary
Sylvia N Kyasanku Member
Moses Ssebagala Member
Judith Kinobe Member

CRANE's Staff in 2023-24

The following people have served in CRANE in the past financial year, working alongside Network members to implement programmes as well as ensure that all administrative needs are taken care of.

Andrew Kayima Driver

Caroline Talima
Children in Safe Spaces Programmes Manager

Cissy Namatovu Field Officer

David Buyinza Chauffeur (Clarion Trust)

David Bwangu Field Officer

David Sigeni Field Officer

Doreen Nankya Library Assistant

Elias Muhereza SEN Bus Driver

Enoch Kitenda Head of ICT & Learning

Faith Kembabazi Network Director

Faith Uwera Finance Officer

Fred Kalungi Field Officer

Fredah Nabukalu Finance Manager & Trainer

Gard Ward Birungi ICT Bus Driver

George Kasamba Field Officer

Grace Mbekeka Field Officer

Henry Ssemwogerere SEN Bus Driver

Hope Tino Children in Families Officer

Humphrey Bahiriirwe
Head of HR and Field Support Services

Immaculate Nanfuka
Network Quality Assurance Manager

Innocent Kidega IEC Field Officer

Irene Mirembe ICT Skills Teacher

Jackie Kikome Church Partnerships Officer

Jacqueline Kamarunga Finance Assistant

Joan Nakakande Caterer

Julie Odoki
Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator

Juliet Batwawula Ssebidde
Children in Education Programmes Manager

Julius Taban Wani Office Attendant

Mercyline Nabwire Field Officer

Maureen Kaitesi Field ICT Technician

Micheal Luweesi Safeguarding Manager

Patrick Byekwaso
Children in Families & Church Partnerships Manager

Peter Makhago ICT Skills Teacher

Prossy Naiga Office Attendant

Rashid Baguma Fleet Manager

Rebecca Nabiryo Accounts Clerk and Trainer

Rhoda Nakalembe Hope Studio Assistant

Rogers Mbaziira Family Strengthening Coordinator

Solomon Mugabi Music Teacher

Solomon Serugga Stores Assistant

Stella Zalwango Learning Resources Coordinator

Tracy Achola Hope Studio Assistant

Troshbert Mwesigwa M&E Officer

Vanessa Nabeta Kibirige Senior Administrator

Victoria Gafabusa Byoona
School Partnerships Supervisor

Vincent Kirabira Field Officer

Viva Africa Staff

Viva Africa staff team share the CRANE office space as they work together to serve children at risk in Uganda and on the continent of Africa. Their staff in 2023-24 were:

Annah Mary Tusiime
Becca Martin
Gill Olaaka
Mim Friday
Paul Kato Kabunga
Tryphosa Kwagala
Veronica Babirye

Rescue One More is hosted by CRANE. Their staff in 2023-24 were:

Grace Nakalembe Social Worker
Sania Nakayiza Social Worker

We want to thank all the staff who have served in the past year. We were sad to have laid off some staff at the end of the GEC project, and pray that the Lord would guide them through this time of transition.

CRANE
Children at Risk Action Network

Web: www.cranenetwork.org
Office Phone: +256(0)206 300 400
Email: administrator@cranenetwork.org
Physical address: Plot 879 Centenary Road, Namirembe, Kampala, Uganda
Postal address: P.O. Box 14003, Kampala, Uganda
CRANE's Mobile money number: 0786 877 936

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