WHEN CHILDREN ARE HEARD
Promising interventions for prevention of violence against children and adolescent girls
power building

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION FUND
Since 2015...

Children’s Rights and Violence Prevention Fund (CRVPF) has been providing grants and technical support to community organizations in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia to advance the safety and rights of children and adolescents.

As a child rights and social justice intermediary organization, CRVPF raises funds for organizations that are listening to children and adolescents, and key actors in their lives, to develop promising hands-on approaches that prevent violence and build the power of adolescent girls.

Collaboration with 74 community organizations and local NGOs in 4 countries.

OUR FUNDERS
OAK FOUNDATION
NOVO FOUNDATION
WELLSPRING PHILANTHROPIC FUND
# HOW FAR WE’VE COME...

## Chapter 1: Connecting the Dots: Integrated Approaches to Violence Prevention & Adolescent Girl Power Building

## Chapter 2: Intervening for Children and Adolescents: Programming Outcomes
- Adolescents Girls’ Power Program

## Chapter 3: Learning with our Partners
- Building Evidence

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Cover picture: School children during a class discussion in Kenya
Ladies and gentlemen, this annual report provides insights into the key accomplishments of Children’s Rights and Violence Prevention Fund (CRVPF) in 2019 in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

The new strategic plan (2020-2023) reaffirms our commitment to work with community organizations and local NGOs by strengthening our two grant making programs: the prevention of Violence against Children and Adolescents program, and the Adolescent Girls Power program.

Aligned to this commitment, CRVPF developed its child safeguarding policy; in 2020, CRVPF will support partners to develop safeguarding policies and assign focal persons to support implementation of the policy.

CRVPF also organized the first regional learning and sharing forum for the adolescent girls program in Naivasha, Kenya, where partners shared their findings using power analysis tools to listen to adolescent girls, to understand their needs and aspirations in their communities.

As a member of the INSPIRE working group, CRVPF participated in approving grants that promote INSPIRE in several developing countries. Additionally, CRVPF provided grants to 13 community organizations and local NGOs in Uganda to promote INSPIRE and raise awareness among key stakeholders. CRVPF further supported the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development in Uganda to organize INSPIRE interministerial committees and support the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda to promote the INSPIRE seven strategies among their members.

CRVPF developed partnerships with 74 community organizations and local NGOs and plans to to consolidate grant making and focus on joint learning with partners. CRVPF plans to conduct organizational assessments which will guide our development of skills training programs focusing on leadership, team building, systems, and program development based on identified strengths and gaps.

In 2019, CRVPF-US Board members organised the first meeting and supported the establishment of a US affiliate office in Washington to help CRVPF consolidate the regional grant-making work in the four countries and support the fundraising activities.

I extend my appreciation to CRVPF regional Board of Trustees who have provided organizational and programmatic advice and oversight since our founding in 2015 which has been crucial to the progress of CRVPF.

I also applaud the staff of CRVPF at the regional office and the national consultants working in Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Kenya for their dedication to program development and grant making.

Finally, donor financial and technical support remains invaluable by providing CRVPF the flexibility, time, and space to learn and leverage the strategic partnerships and grant making system that has enabled us to realize much success in our work. Thank you.

Fassil W. Marriam
Executive Director, CRVPF
Inspiration: Our Theory of Change

Creating a safe and nurturing environment for children and adolescents results from interactions between three sub-systems: family and community; deep social norms and power and policy. We achieve this change through:

Building agency of individuals and change in the relationships and patterns of interaction among children, adolescents and adults within families, the community, and local institutions like schools

A shift in the social norms that legitimize and perpetuate violence

An enabling policy and power environment which provides access to resources and opportunities.

Children and adolescent girls are safe and empowered where they live, learn, play and work.

Pupils are encouraged to read and become aware of their world while building positive self-esteem.
CONNECTING THE DOTS

Integrated Approaches to Violence Prevention and Adolescent Girls Power Building: Using a Cluster Approach

We provide 6 months planning and learning grants for 2-5 community organizations and local NGOs to form cluster partnerships, to have greater reach, influence, and coordinated impact in the community. This collaboration captures the creative potential of diverse actors for deeper impact while fostering local ownership and sustainability.

Long term grants are provided to support interventions for VAC and Adolescents Girls Power programs. We prioritize parenting, spousal relations, increasing household incomes, community engagement, safe schools, safe spaces, and working with men and boys.

We draw learning from research and case studies as well as listening exercises with key beneficiaries. Regional clusters are supported to reflect periodically on collective lessons learned through reflection meetings, while annual convenings provide for deeper insights into programming.

We foster collaboration with and between communities, national and regional organizations, training and academic institutions, to develop interventions that prevent violence and advance the rights of children and adolescents. We support partners who promote local ownership of change, build sustainability in their interventions, and demonstrate responsible use of funding.

We connect clusters across the region to create a network of networks by harnessing the collective knowledge, skills, reach, and experience of each partner. In addition to facilitating collective action in a place-based framework, the cluster approach enables cross-learning, improving the success rate of interventions.

CRVPF plans to develop community movements that prevent violence against children and build power of adolescent girls by improving partners' leadership and networking skills.
Partners discuss violence prevention strategies during a reflection meeting.

Involving law enforcement actors in children’s rights and violence prevention through community dialogues.

Teenage girls during an adolescent discussion on issues affecting girls.

Fasil Marriam, CRVPF Executive Director, listens in during a field visit to a school implementing strategies to prevent violence against children and adolescents.
INTERVENING FOR CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS

PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS PROGRAM

Focus: Preventing violence against children and adolescents at home, community, and school

**Family**
- Promoting skilful parenting
- Improving spousal relationships
- Increasing household incomes

**School**
- Creating safe environments in schools

**Community**
- Supporting communities to address social norms that perpetuate violence against children

38 organizations received grant support
In numbers: Highlights for VAC prevention

- **834** Teachers trained in creating safe school environments
- **2188** Parents groups receiving training in positive parenting and spousal relations skills
- **1833** Caregivers economically empowered through Village Savings and Loan Associations groups
- **5910** Children/pupils actively involved in violence prevention activities
- **108** Community trainers trained in child rights safeguarding and violence prevention
- **365** Cases reported and referred
- **923** Children actively involved in safe spaces
VAC program interventions supported

Using media to prevent violence against children and adolescents through radio, TV, community dialogues, and discussions on social media.

Promoting menstrual hygiene management by training children and communities to make reusable sanitary towels.

Supporting formation of parents support groups as a vehicle for learning sessions on good parenting skills and practices.

Support the prevention and protection of children and adolescent girls movement and migration.

Learning grants support

Relationship building among clusters based on the core principles of integration (of activities) and collaboration (of members) for mutual benefit.

Technical support in developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Conduct situational analysis of violence against children.

Organizational capacity assessment.

Training of community based trainers and school teachers in child rights and violence prevention and response.

Prevention of factors that push children and adolescents girls into abusive and exploitative work.

Increasing and strengthening household incomes through mobilization and formation of savings groups.

Children developed messages on violence prevention to share with the community on radio talkshows.
Building capacity of multiple actors to adopt the INSPIRE framework

In line with the recommendations of the Uganda Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development to promote the INSPIRE strategies for prevention of violence, CRVPF supported the training of partner organisations and government leaders in implementing the framework.

CRVPF further supported the Ministry of Gender and Labour and Social Development in Uganda to organize INSPIRE interministerial committees and to support the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda to promote the INSPIRE seven strategies among their members.

To strengthen INSPIRE in the community, CRVPF approved grants to 13 community organizations and NGOs in six districts in Uganda to promote the seven strategies of INSPIRE by raising awareness among government, community leaders, teachers, and students.

**PARTNER SPOTLIGHT IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

**Health Child:** Condensed the safe school policy document by the Ministry of Education and Sports, Uganda, which focuses on prevention of physical, sexual, emotional, neglect and negligent violence for creation of a safe school environment.

**Emmanuel Development Association:** CRVPF is working with five local NGOs in the Northern Ethiopia corridor to prevent young children movement and migration and protect older children from abuse and sexual exploitation during movement and migration. The NGOs are working in collaboration with community groups, schools, police and transport authorities.

**Mwangaza Cluster:** Comprising three community organizations in Kenya, (Mwangaza community Initiative, The Institute for Human Rights, and Trace Kenya) the cluster received support to build strong cluster relationships and conduct a situational analysis on violence against children in Juju ward, Kilifi County.

**Wotesawa Domestic Workers Organization**
An organization founded by former domestic workers to support and protect young girls in domestic work from abuse and exploitation in Tanzania. Wotesawa equipped households with necessary skills on entrepreneurship, modern farming, livestock keeping and resource mobilization as well as formation of self-help savings groups.
Learning positive discipline through play

“I thought that beating is the only way of ensuring that the child is well disciplined. However, I learnt from this session that beating is bad. You can also guide and the child understands. So these days I sit with the children and tell them that this is wrong, this is right. Another thing is about playing with the children. I used not to play with them but these days when I am at home I get time and play with them. For example if it is football, I join and play with them. This brings them close to me.”

- Father trained in a parenting group
The Adolescent Girls Power Program supported girls to reflect on the vulnerabilities they face that disempower them and how they can overcome them.
When programs focus on children, they fail to consider gender differences among children. Similarly, research on violence against women often neglects to recognize the specific risks that adolescent girls face. As a result of the lack of a gender and age perspective, the specific needs and vulnerabilities of adolescent girls often remain invisible or sidelined. The program creates dialogue between different actors to foster critical, intersectional thinking amongst practitioners in the four countries. CRVPF provided 6 months planning and learning grants to organizations in clusters, to develop working frameworks, listen to girls, and explore learning questions that can lead to the development of programs that respond to power building for adolescent girls.

**Key activities undertaken**

- **Community Mapping**
  - Clusters identified and mapped communities using a CRVPF tool to identify the different types of girls in the community.

- **Power Analysis/Listening to girls**
  - Clusters used a power analysis tool to engage girls in sharing their experiences and to understand their circumstances and plan activities that can support them to make better life choices.

- **Learning & Sharing Forum**
  - The forum provided the clusters an opportunity to share experiences related to power analysis and community assessment work to guide the design of robust programs.

**Key Outcome**

The discussions from the learning and sharing forum guided partners to develop programs including the establishment of safe spaces in schools and communities for girls to share experiences, learn together and gain life skills.

**Organizations supported in 10 place-based cluster partnerships**

- 31 organizations
- 32 consultative meetings engaging government and community leaders
- 400 girls engaged in 139 listening sessions
Adolescent school girls in Ethiopia
Case study: Kenya cluster approach to adolescent girls’ power building

Otto Benecker Foundation
Soccer tournaments, clinics (talent nurturing & coaching)
Content development & documentation of stories of change

Kreative Generations
Participatory theatre with girls (talent nurturing, mentorship, communication)

Imarisha Kenya
SRH information and skills and menstrual hygiene (SRH hubs/safe spaces, training and mentorship of peer trainers and counselling girls)

Partnership success
Understand each other’s uniqueness
Solve problems amicably
Respect girls’ personal spaces

We want to learn
Effective ways of building trust with girls and how the uniqueness of each organisation plays out in the cluster arrangement

We need support for:
Capacity building on M&E, financial management, leadership, programme design
IEC and visibility materials
Documentation equipment

Lessons from the Dar-es-Salaam cluster: What should be included in program design for adolescent girls?
Include activities to increase girls play time and opportunities to speak/express themselves.
Create safe spaces for girls to interact and learn from each other.
Train girls’ groups on what and how to communicate to other girls to build their power
Provide material support to support girls who have experienced abuse.

“Safe spaces allow us to share personal, developmental and family issues. In the monthly meeting, the adolescent girls use the space to advise each other, share experiences and do activities together. The girls feel happy and proud to be part of the group and parents are willing to let their girls join the group.”

-Program beneficiary
Key insights from clusters listening sessions with adolescent girls

Girls were more free and conversational when grouped into their peer sets, rather than in larger mixed groups. Understanding the girl's context and environment, helped resonate with the girls, and help them share freely during the sessions.

Girls also mentioned that peer pressure can be positive, not always negative, by motivating them to work harder and be like their peers.

Writing experiences on cards made girls more comfortable as it was confidential, especially regarding sensitive discussions.

Most of the girls felt that the entire project was a life changer:
"You are friendly and you are making us feel comfortable to open up our challenges."

"We now have the confidence, feel more powerful and energized."

What makes a good ‘safe space’?

Safe spaces should be resourced – with the right information, holistic skills, psycho-social support services and linked to referral pathways where girls can get necessary information and services.
When Children Are Heard

Chapter 3

Learning with Our Partners

Refining the grant making process

In 2019 CRVPF developed partnerships with 74 community organizations and local NGOs organized in 29 clusters. CRVPF is considering 2020-2021 as a consolidation period to deepen our learning with partners. The focus will be on documenting CRVPF and partners’ experiences, organizing leadership training and mentorship, and conducting organization assessments to identify partners’ capacities and challenges for future organizational development support.

1 CRVPF started grant making initially targeting individual organizations, however it was later discovered that giving grants to community organizations and local NGOs with limited organizational capacity and reach was not feasible to expand the grant making.

2 Following the discussion with partners, CRVPF encouraged 2-5 community organizations and local NGOs to develop a cluster partnership. The partners identified the lead organization and project implementation areas. The cluster partnership approach was effective in increasing the feasibility and reach of the partners.

3 However, partners noted that although the cluster partnership was effective in coordinating and improving reach, interventions were hampered due to the fact that organizations did not develop a strong relationship or understanding of each other’s strategies.

4 Learning from this feedback, CRVPF developed a 6 months planning and learning grant to allow partners time and space to know each other’s strategies and specializations, to identify a project area and conduct a situational analysis by listening to children, adolescents, families, communities and schools. Partners were encouraged to develop long term proposals after six months of CRVPF funding.

Reflection sessions provide new learning to improve programs
Based on our core principles, CRVPF is always gleaning new insights from reflection meetings, convenings, monitoring visits and listening sessions. These insights contribute to the body of evidence around violence prevention and fulfillment of children’s rights.

**Working with schools**
CRVPF supports partners to create safe school environments to enable children and adolescents to complete their education. CRVPF adopted the Good School toolkit developed by Raising Voices: engagement of school administrators especially head teachers; training of focal teachers and formation of children’s clubs as platforms for building children’s self-esteem and learning to prevent violence. One of the success stories in creating a safe school environment is the making of re-usable sanitary pads in schools.

**Working with clusters**
CRVPF is encouraging 2-5 community organizations and local NGOs to work in cluster partnerships to enhance their program reach, visibility and presence in the community. The theory behind cluster partnership is summed up by the Kashmiri saying: “One plus one equals to eleven.” In other words, the sum is greater than the individual parts. This relationship fosters local ownership for sustainability, addresses complex problems, and leverages new opportunities. In clusters collaboration can have greater impact than working individually.
Listening
CRVPF uses listening as a factor that helps design programs that benefit the beneficiaries directly. In the Adolescent Girls Power program girls where engaged by partners using different tools to understand their challenges. The results of the listening exercise provided clear insights on the key issues that girls experience during adolescence.

Engaging communities
Community engagement is important for sustainability of project activities. Existing community structures clearly understand their community dynamics, needs, and have greater influence on the desired changes. CRVPF engages with existing community structures, both informal and formal to address negative community norms and values that perpetuate violence against children and adolescents.

Building Transformational Community Leadership
The innovative cluster based approach provides a unique opportunity to spark movement building in communities. CRVPF will select and train partners in transformational leadership and networking to nurture movement building to prevent violence against children and build adolescent girls’ power. The leaders will play key roles in supporting the development of protective environments for children and adolescent girls in family and community settings.

Male inclusion is important for violence prevention
Young men were engaged in sessions aimed at promoting responsible behavior amongst them in areas of conflict resolution, sexual violence, alcohol and substance abuse, financial planning and sexual reproductive health.
Chapter 4

RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES  TOTAL: USD 877,724

- MEETINGS AND TRAININGS
  USD 124,000

- TRAVEL AND OVERHEADS
  USD 137,659

- PERSONNEL
  USD 221,265

- GRANTS DISBURSEMENT
  USD 394,800

TOTAL: USD 877,724
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“Ensuring children and adolescent girls are safe and empowered where they live, learn, play and work”