



OUR MISSION

We are advancing the safety and rights of children and young people by working with 210 community organizations to create safe and empowering environments in schools, homes and communities in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

Learn more at www.crvpf.org

"As a family, we have learned how to work together and most importantly make decisions together. This has helped us to save money and increase household income."

Funding partners











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Cover picture: Girls making beads in a safe space in Uganda

FOREWORD

BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Welcome to the 2022 Children's Rights and Violence Prevention Fund (CRVPF) annual report. As you read, you will discover the unique aspects of our work for violence prevention in the region -working through clusters of partners who understand violence against children and young people in all its forms, and are invested in continually exploring, learning and innovating to prevent it.

Our partners, the community organizations, are our ears and eyes, providing feedback, discussing challenges and sharing successes gleaned from local leaders and community members who are fellow soldiers in preventing all forms of violence against children. Collectively, these partners help us stay on track by ensuring we are designing the most relevant interventions.

At CRVPF we chose to remain hopeful in spite of the devastating effects of Covid-19; and we took this hope to the communities, working alongside them to precipitate their recovery. We are delighted that we supported 173,060 adults, children and young people to regain their livelihoods, rebuild their lives and restore their families with the assurance that we will continue this journey with them.

We appreciate the support of the different governments, civil society partners, the children and their families and communities and the donors who fund us to be able to make a difference everyday. Every life touched by our interventions is a future built. Thank you for entrusting us with this privilege of partnership as we work to prevent violence against the most vulnerable. The future is brighter for our children and young people.



Professor Anne Ruhweza Katahoire CRVPF Board Chairperson



INSIGHTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When Children's Rights and Violence Prevention Fund was founded in 2015, we could not have fathomed the breadth of challenges we would face in supporting children, young people, their families, and communities. Equally, we could not have perceived the extent of transformation and empowerment we would foster.

Today, the magic number is 173,060. These are the beneficiaries in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia that have been directly reached and impacted by our work with children, young people, refugees and community organisations.

From the start, we focused on targeting very strategic groups where the need was unmet and where we would have strong measurable results that could be replicated and scaled up.

Under our Adolescent Girls
Power Program, we
supported 11,000 adolescent
girls to acquire lifeskills to
build their confidence to use
their newly acquired incomegenerating skills to become
self-sustaining, productive
members of their community.
These girls, in turn, have
become 'implementers',
following in our footsteps by
teaching others what our
partners have been teaching
them. They are equipped to

advocate, engage in critical dialogues and propose actions that can protect them from violence sustainably. These girls are also able to support their families as they now have regular sources of income.

Through the Prevention of VAC program, we focused on promoting positive parenting and we invited 15,000 parents and caregivers to enrol for parenting classes to unearth new positive perspectives and parenting skills that improved their relationships with themselves and with their children, creating happier homes.

In the community, our partners extended the safety

net by establishing multiple safe spaces in the community.

For some of our special groups like youth in slum areas, refugees and host communities, our goal was to ensure they are properly skilled for the market so they can focus on building incomes for good futures. We linked partner organizations to vocational bodies and certifying institutions to enhance their support to the youth.

With sustainability in mind, we worked with our partners to

strengthen their internal systems in finance, monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management to guide their programming.

The results you will read about tell the story of recovery and resilience-building of communities and speak to a vital truth -that as an organization we are simply enablers; children, young people, their parents, communities and local leaders hold the answers to the problems we are trying to

solve.

Our learnings, captured at the end of this report are evidence that preventing violence is a worthy effort; the more we invest, the more wins we shall secure.

Many thanks to our partners, regional and local governments, CRVPF staff, our board and donors for driving the change that is needed.



Fassil W. Marriam **Executive Director, CRVPF**

PROGRAM FOCUS

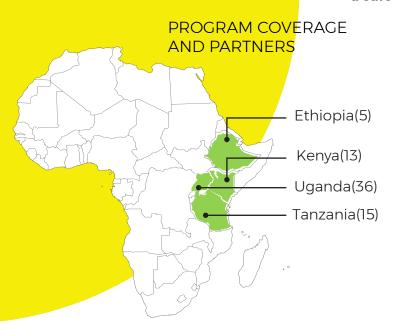
Ensuring children and young people live in a secure and enabling environment free from violence in homes, schools, and communities

CHAPTER 1

Prevention of violence against children and adolescents

INTERVENTIONS

CRVPF believes that violence against children is preventable in homes, schools and communities. The VAC prevention program supported 69 organisations in a cluster partnership to strengthen parenting skills and practices, improve spousal relationship, increase household income, create safe spaces for out-of-school adolescents and enabling a safe school environment for children and adolescents.



3,135 OUT-OF-SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS ATTENDING SAFE SPACES

Partners established safe spaces for out-of-school adolescents to hold weekly discussions facilitated by peer mentors using a life skills manual. The adolescents gained life skills to earn incomes and protect themselves against violence in communities and plan more confidently for their futures.



13,139 CHILDREN

Involved in child-led good school activities where learners join clubs to participate in activities that promotde a safe learning environment.



15,049 PARENTS

Trained in positive parenting skills and spousal relationships which is creating a peaceful atmosphere in homes for children to thrive.





12,072 PARENTS IN INCOME GENERATION

Financial inclusion enables caregivers to participate in Village Savings and Loans Associations to access business loans and earn incomes reducing family stresses that contribute to violence in the home, meeting basic needs including paying school fees and buying scholastic materials. As a result, children stay in school and are protected against early pregnancy and diseases arising from transactional sex to meet their needs.

"We no longer have conflicts but discussions and respecting each other. It's now all smiles in our home, even for the children."



Post-Covid, partners in Uganda organised community dialogues to reinforce messages on positive parenting, use of safe spaces and to encourage parents to return children to school.

DOCUMENTING EVIDENCE FOR BEST PRACTICES

Partners were supported through VaCNets, a virtual online repository and networking platform for sharing promising practices and emerging evidence on VAC in East Africa. This supported the adaptation of documented evidence-based models to inform progress towards ending VAC in East Africa.

FACES OF VAC PREVENTION

"I am so happy that I can support other adolescents, especially the girls and my family. I know how to keep my child safe and healthy. I can face the future with hope."

Agnes, Safe Space mentor



Safe Space mentors like Agnes were trained in different vocational skills like tailoring, carpentry, beads and craftswork to build their esteem to support their families and protect themselves and their peers.



Every year, girls drop out of school as they start menstruating without access to affordable sanitary products.

Teaching both boys and girls about menstrual hygiene management including how to make reusable sanitary pads, keeps girls in schools by reducing the discrimination and stigma they face during menstruation.

Watch how the **Parenting for Respectability program** is improving spousal and family relationships

https://youtu.be/t-0j0mEbThk



"Before, my husband was not supportive with home chores. Since we joined the parenting program he talks well he even bathes our baby, and most times we do gardening together. He collects firewood, and there is sharing of responsibilities."

Participant in the Parenting for Respectability Program



Safe Spaces for boys are important as they drive behaviour change by addressing harmful social norms that perpetuate VAC and committing to key preventative actions.

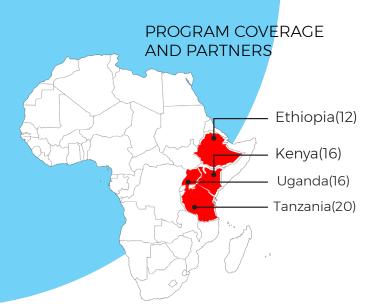


COLLABORATION, LEARNING AND OWNERSHIP

To improve VAC prevention efforts. multi-sectoral coordination meetings are organized by CRVPF partners bringing together different child protection actors including political, religious, cultural, community leaders and school management discuss successes and challenges of on-going VAC interventions to build accountability and ownership for results, and sustainability of initiatives beyond donor support.

PROGRAM FOCUS

Supporting and building the power of adolescent girls to transform and change the structures that deny them choice and power.



CHAPTER 2

Adolescent Girls Power Program

INTERVENTIONS

Traditionally, many girls in African societies face discrimination in multiple forms; they may be deterred from attending school, finding gainful employment and in many cases are traded in early marriage for economic gain. In school, girls are always at risk of various forms of violence including physical and sexual violence.

The Adolescent Girls Power Program (AGPP) equips partner organisations to give practical lifeskills and empower girls to engage in participatory dialogues with community leaders, teachers and parents to support their rights and encourage critical thinking for good decision-making.



Key activities: Creating safe spaces, life skills and financial literacy, increasing knowledge for stakeholders and power influencers, building a powerful movement for girls





STRENGTHENING PARTNER CAPACITY TO DELIVER LIFESKILLS

As a key component of the AGPP, partners receive refresher trainings in life skills based on the *Little Light of Mine* manual with five modules: Self-confidence, Smart thinking, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Safety, Gender and Power and Setting and Achieving Goals.

Regionally, 4,503 girls have completed at least five modules of the life skills manual.

EXPANDING THE SAFETY NET FOR GIRLS

Building on the observed positive impact of safe spaces for girls in all countries, CRVPF partners focused on creating an additional 12 spaces where girls can meet and feel protected from psychological, emotional and physical abuse in the community. In these spaces girls play, are empowered to protect themselves and others from all forms of violence, and they gain important life skills.



"Our safe space makes me happy because I am impacting lives. When my friend was defiled, I convinced her not to commit suicide because she was afraid of her father's reaction. I am glad I gained her trust and she accepted to seek help from our mentor."





"I can't believe I can teach other girls and they care to listen. We learn new things and enjoy life skills. We have learned about menstruation, the reproductive system, and life skills. We have also learned art and crafts, making reusable pads and even dancing. We are friends who care for each other."

Hann, member of a safe space in Ethiopia

BUILDING FUTURES FOR 11,000 ADOLESCENT GIRLS

In and out-of-school adolescents were given life skills and hands-on skills in safe spaces. **Skilling builds the girls' esteem, increases their knowledge, and enables them to confidently engage in income-generating activities which protects them from exploitation.** This also empowers them to make decisions that benefit them.

The vocational skills training and income generating activities for girls are conducted by local vocational institutes and through networking with professionals in the community where the girls live. Out of the 852 girls who received training in different skills, 325 of them have received start up kits through CRVPF grant making to help them start small businesses or engage in an income generating activity.



LISTENING TO GIRLS FOR BETTER PROGRAMMING

The Adolescent Girls Camp, organised by CRVPF and its partners in Uganda, was attended by girls and mentors as a feedback mechanism to improve programming for girls. The girls were reminded about their power to achieve their dreams and remain relentless in pursuing help from the community and their peers in the safe spaces.

POWER
BUILDING FOR
GIRLS





GIRL-LED CAMPAIGNS AND ADVOCACY

Engaging communities through sports is an entry point for girls to dialogue with parents, religious leaders and boys for the prevention of sexual violence and other forms of violence and to safeguard children and young people.

PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVISM

"Adolescent girls face disadvantages because of their age, gender, and disability among others. Girls are sources of power, power to prevent, power to resist, and power to reduce. As girls we have the right to use this power."

-Bashirah, during the International Day of the Girl Child



CRVPF thrives by building relationships between partners to implement programs effectively. Picture: Jamii Yetu cluster meeting, Arusha, Tanzania

ADOLESCENT MOTHERS' PROJECT

Adolescent mothers are particularly vulnerable to violence in all its forms as they may often have dropped out of school thus lacking employable skills and often lack access to financial resources to start income-generating enterprises. This exacerbates a cycle of poverty and susceptibility to sexual violence for economic gain.

CRVPF is part of a consortium funded by the Hilton Foundation to support adolescent mothers and their children in Kenya and Tanzania through an eight-month Planning and Learning grant.

In support of the program's development, CRVPF developed partnerships with 12 community organizations and NGOs grouped in four cluster

partnerships in Kenya and Tanzania, to assess the current situation of adolescent mothers with children 0-3 years, their families, and communities.

Grant activities:

- Relationship-building among cluster partners and signing of Memoranda of Understanding for working together
- Mapping target beneficiaries, resources and services available for adolescent mothers
- Conducting power analysis in the community to understand the formal and informal leaders' perceptions of adolescent mothers
- Partner organization self-assessment with external support to identify organization challenges and needs

The consortium supports adolescent mothers and their children by providing Early Childhood Development service and sharing information and resources to develop coordinated interventions in East and Southern Africa.

Consortium members

- Purposeful
- · Children's Rights and Innovation Fund
- International Resource for Impact and Storytelling



"I didn't know there were organizations doing great work for girls in the region. I hope to learn more during my journey and partnership in the cluster".



CRVPF emphasizes the involvement of communities in partner work to build ownership and sustainability of project interventions. Picture: Community entry meeting, Arusha, Tanzania with leaders

PROGRAM FOCUS

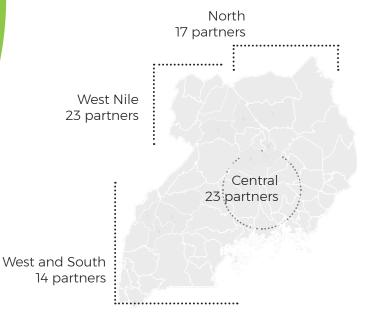
With support from the Mastercard Foundation under the Covid 19
Recovery and Resilience Program, CRVPF, has since 2020, worked with 80 community organisations to support youth to remain resilient and economically empowered during and after the pandemic.

CHAPTER 3

Youth and Capacity Development Program

INTERVENTIONS

CRVPF partners have equipped young people with vocational and work-readiness skills, offering financial literacy education and services, building youth agency, resilience, and voice, and established formal and informal structures like village savings and loans associations (VSLA) and safe spaces.





133,200 YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN

empowered and enabled 65,921 young people (68% young women) to access dignified and fulfilling work opportunities.

OUTREACH TO MEET BASIC NEEDS IN SLUMS, REFUGEE AND HOST COMMUNITIES

Partner programs directly impact targeted communities with the most relevant and urgent interventions to imporve their quality of life.



24,567 youth in vulnerable communities



39,776 female youth



14,624 male youth

ACCELERATING FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Access to finance is critical for survival for the poorest and CRVPF partners supported communities to bridge this gap.



732 VSLAs were formed with 26,861 members accessing 5,000 loans



UGX 1.9 billion accumulated in VSLA savings with 5,515 loans accessed and used to start a business.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARTNERS TO PROVIDE MARKET-DRIVEN VOCATIONAL SKILLS

More than 10 cluster partners registered with the Directorate of Industrial Training to offer nationally accredited training certificates that will ensure work-readiness of graduates.



14,896 youth trained and completed a vocational education course ranging from 3-6 months.



SUPPORTING ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION INTO FORMAL EDUCATION

In partnership with schools young people were supported to return to school post-Covid, by providing them with scholastic materials, career guidance and safe spaces. More than 1,500 children returned to school as a result.



DIGNIFIED AND FULFILLING FORMAL AND INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH

Partners equipped young people with appropriate work-readiness skills, including apprenticeship, life and soft skills, coaching and mentorship to prepare for formal employment and business ownership.

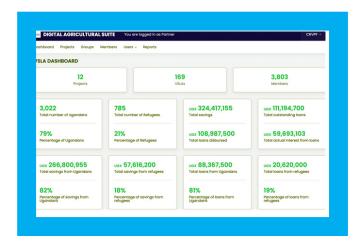
Young entrepreneurs received business training and business development services to start and manage small enterprises. Advancing TVET skills is an important alternative pathway to employment for young people.



EQUIPPING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR SUCCESS

ENHANCING LEARNING PLATFORMS FOR PROGRAM QUALITY

CRVPF partners organised the annual learning forum during which partners, Office of the Prime Minister representatives and district officials discussed the most effective interventions -VSLA formation and financial literacy support, work readiness skills building, community mobilization and group formation. Information and technology skills and accelerated education provided opportunities for improvement.



LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SERVICES TO YOUNG PEOPLE

The YCD program supported the digitalization of 169 VSLAs formed by 12 cluster partners. This process will support lastmile credit facilities and financial services, improve record keeping, reduce credit default rates, and generate credit reports as collateral for borrowers especially those in rural areas.

Early findings show that women are the highest borrowers which indicates that VSLAs are the most accessible financial services source for women. However, women leadership of VSLA is minimal implying that women still require confidence-building to lead.

OUR LEARNING AGENDA

CRVPF proactively plans multiple learning opportunities with its partners and the communities they serve including local leaders, law enforcement, the judiciary and sub-county departments especially those providing child-related services. We also learn from other civil society organisations and the recommendations of our donors.

CHAPTER 4

LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS



Adolescent Girls Power Building Learning and Sharing Forum 2022

From each implementing Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia, partners, local leaders, girls, parents, and CRVPF staff convened to review the past strategic period (2019 - 2022) in a learning forum.

Key learning and recommendations

It is important to create more safe spaces nearer to the girls' homes and increase girls' participation through peer mobilization. The skills training should be diversified to capture more skills and reach the most vulnerable girls. Further, girls can be supported to add value to their products through training in higher vocational institutions and registration with standards bodies. Equally, parents need to be sensitized on the importance of being positively involved in their children's lives while communities should be sensitized to enforce positive social norms that will improve the lives of girls.



Prevention of Violence Against Children Community Radio Discussions

CRVPF partners hosted community radio talk shows with community leaders to share VAC prevention experiences and reinforce key messages in positive parenting.

Key learning and recommendations

Evaluating key lessons and good practices of the program will improve efficacy of interventions and improve results for children. This should include country-based reflection meetings and informational materials like program video clips which are shareable on multiple platforms. Further, by coordinating capacity development support to partners, they can more ably support beneficiaries to acquire useful skills.

Equally, school response to VAC will be strengthened as CRVPF finalises its Safe School manual to guide learners, educators, and administrators.



Continuous Learning in Youth and Capacity Development

Key learning and recommendations

Community organizations have proven to be invaluable partners in meeting the needs of vulnerable communities because of proximity, credibility, and adaptability especially in critical times like pandemic response. This has fostered community ownership and buy-in of program interventions especially among important stakeholders like local leaders and influencers.

Institutional capacity strengthening enables partners to identify their strengths and gaps to improve their programming for youth.

VSLA groups remain significant as an entry point for various development interventions in communities. These groups build cohesiveness, are a source of social capital, and accountability, simultaneously promoting economic empowerment and development at the grassroots.

CHAPTER 5 ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



CRVPF staff and Country National Consultants: L-R: **Edrisa Mawajje,** Finance officer, YCD Program; **Kesiime Phionah,** Regional Coordinator, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning; **Merkeb Seyoum,** National Consultant, Ethiopia; **Evelyne Tugume**, Administration and Program support; **Edith Tendo**, Coordinator, YCD Program; **Mercy Mwikali**, National Consultant, Nairobi; **Albert Asiimwe**, Regional Coordinator PVAC Program; **Amne Manangwa**, National Consultant, Tanzania; **Salmah Babu**, Regional Coordinator, AGPP; **Sheilla Ahumuza**, Finance and Administration Officer; **Sarah Ameri Alum**, Regional Finance and Grants Coordinator; **Fassil W. Marriam**, CRVPF Executive Director.

CRVPF organized staff meetings in September 2022 in Uganda to review program developments and plan for the future direction of the organization.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION FOR ORGANIZATION VISIBILITY

Our communication strategy aims at reaching audiences with professionally packaged information on progress, insights and learnings, receiving feedback from our audiences, and rallying the support of other stakeholders in our mission.

As a support function, the communication component ensures that CRVPF achieves its mandate through good documentation, learning, and information sharing in creative formats to strengthen the visibility of the CRVPF brand.

In the subsequent years, we will focus on strengthening our social media presence and advocacy activities, creating organization-wide communication guidelines, and involving national consultants in our communication activities.



Reaching audiences on social media



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CRVPF is also present on YouTube, LinkedIn and Twitter. The CRVPF website has been redesigned to reflect our growth as a regional brand of excellence.

HUMAN RESOURCES RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT

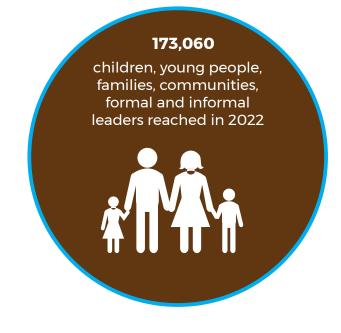
Over the next five years, CRVPF will expand its human resource through new policies, integration of technology, improved staffing and training, better communication with employees and innovating new approaches to improve work processes, career development and inter-organizational mobility.

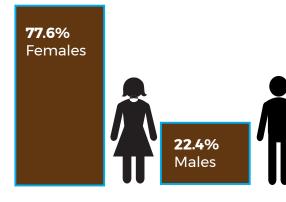
GENERATING EVIDENCE FOR MORE RELEVANT PROGRAMMING

CRVPF Management Information System

CRVPF contracted OMNI-TECH in August 2021 to develop a management information system (MIS). The MIS supports CRVPF to store, preserve, analyze, visualize, and report, share, and publish data collected by funded partners. Currently, 70 partners have been trained to adopt and use the system for reporting of their project activities through the Kenga Mobile Application.

Information shared by partners across the three CRVPF programs











17,654 Adolescents in safe spaces

Parents in the Parenting for Respectability training

17,691 VSLA members

IMPACT OF COVID-19 RESEARCH FINDINGS

CRVPF conducted a regional assessment on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on low income families, children, young people, and young mothers in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.



2,451

people participated in the research across Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

Impact on schools



The proportion of children studying after the Covid-19 pandemic is less than that which was studying before Covid-19.

School dropout rate in Uganda was 18%, Kenya 13.7%, Tanzania 9.2% and Ethiopia 15%. The highest drop out in Uganda could be attributed to the two years of school closure and a reduction in household incomes and inability to pay school fees.

Amongst the children that are still studying, many have considered dropping out of school partly due to the closure of schools in these countries that caused a mismatch between children's chronological age and classes being attended.



Impact on gender-based violence

Amongst households in Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia, GBV increased following the pandemic. Sampled children had witnessed female adolescents being sexually harassed (27.1%), being pregnant (37.6%), given birth (35.9%), married off (23.2%), and had heard of an adolescent girl that had ran away from home (25.2%).



Impact on young people and womens' small businesses

Most of the business owners in Uganda and Ethiopia reported their businesses to have temporarily closed following the outbreak of Covid-19 and the majority of those from Uganda (65.3%), Kenya (70.6%), Tanzania (73.5%), and Ethiopia (59.5%) reported that Covid-19 led to a reduction in their sales /profits.

On average, 31.6% of households had a member who lost a job due to the effects of Covid-19.



Recommendations for small businesses

Following the recommendations from small business owners whose businesses were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, 276 young people largely young mothers (85% female and 15% males) from Kampala, Mubende and Mukono Districts, were trained in

improving their business skills.

It also involved sharing of relevant stories and experiences to enhance learning using local examples. The trainings were largely successful with participants' expectations met, especially due to its rollout out prior to enterprise start.

Business training for partners post Covid-19 lockdown, focused on four modules: enterprise selection, startup, management and business planning each guided by five critical business questions that a potential entrepreneur must answer before deciding to start any enterprise.

Recommendations for school-going children

- Support school programs that create a desirable environment for children to stay in school.
- Support school dropouts especially young mothers, with survival and vocational skills to

- enable them to earn a living.
- Equip parents with virtues of trustworthiness so that their children can confide in them.
- Support young people in business to improve the quality of their products for example, skills in value addition, group

dynamics, support to form savings and lending groups, create revolving loan schemes, business accounting skills and marketing skills (physical and online). Those that need money for business operation can be given short -term loans at low interest rates, or capital development loans.

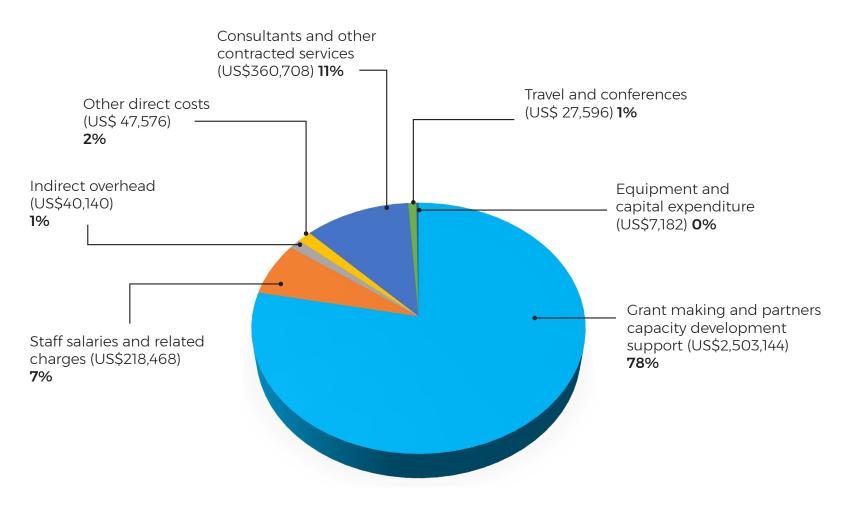


"I feel happy going to the safe space because I know I will be with my fellow girls. I get a chance to express my challenges to my fellow girls and I get help."

Member of a safe space

CHAPTER 6 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOTAL BUDGET USD\$3,204,814



GRANT-MAKING IN 2022

Working with community organizations to fund programs at the grassroots, we introduced and strengthened approaches for VAC prevention, equipping children and young people with skills to build agency and resilience.

AMOUNT	PROGRAM
USD 848,665	Disbursed to the Adolescent Girls Power Program to set up safe spaces, build a movement for girls and life skills and sensitize girls in the four countries
USD 1,135,730	Disbursed to the Prevention of Violence Against Children program to strengthen capacity of partners in implementing parenting programs to improve parenting skills, increase income support for low income families, support activities for safe spaces targeting out of school adolescents, safe school environments and strengthening clusters
USD 518,749	Disbursed for the Youth and Capacity Development Program activities in refugee settlements, host and slum communities targeting youth and young people
USD 2,503,144	Total Grants disbursed during FY 2022



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