



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Community Focus International (CFI)





COMMUNITY FOCUS INTERNATIONAL (CFI)

CFI PHILOSOPHY - Empowering people, changing lives



CFI VALUES

Integrity: We believe that integrity is the foundation of our Christian character

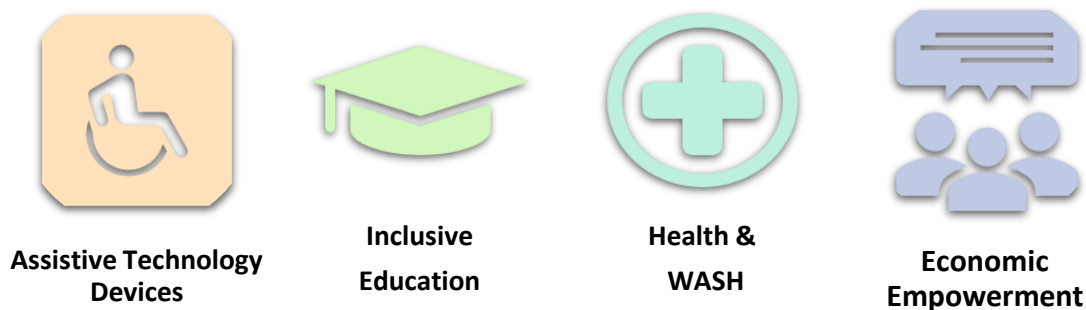
Team building and Teamwork: We seek to combine our efforts to achieve a common goal"

Innovation and adoptability:

Equity and fairness: We believe in treating all people as we would like to be treated.

Rotational Leadership: We believe in a team-based approach to leadership.

CFI STRATEGIC INTERVENTION DIRECTION



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with great pleasure that I present Community Focus International's (CFI) 2025 Annual Report. This report highlights a year of remarkable growth, innovation, and impact as we continued our mission of empowering vulnerable communities through inclusive education, health, disability inclusion, livelihoods, and psychosocial support interventions across Northern Uganda.

Throughout 2025, CFI implemented a diverse portfolio of programs that transformed lives and strengthened communities. Our key achievements included the production and distribution of Assistive Technology Devices such as wheelchairs, tricycles, Cerebral Palsy (CP) chairs, and reading glasses; the expansion of socio-economic empowerment initiatives through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), piggery enterprises, youth skilling, and entrepreneurship development; and the implementation of education programs that improved foundational literacy and numeracy among children. We also continued to deliver impactful donor-funded initiatives including the Health and Nutrition for All (HANA) Project in partnership with World Vision Uganda, Safe and Inclusive Cities Project in partnership with Plan International, the Alternative Basic Education (ABE) Project in partnership with Grassroots Nest for Innovation and Change (GRiC), and the Thriving Through Play Initiative supported by Global Fund for Children (GFC). These interventions have contributed significantly to improving learning outcomes, mental wellbeing, household resilience, and access to essential services for vulnerable populations.

A major milestone for the organization in 2025 was the expansion of our operational footprint into Adjumani District. We are pleased to report that CFI successfully signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the district leadership, laying a strong foundation for future programming and partnerships. In addition, we initiated the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), which will enable us to extend our services to refugee and host communities within the settlement areas. This expansion reflects our commitment to reaching some of the most vulnerable populations with inclusive and sustainable development interventions.

Over the years, CFI has grown into a trusted community-based organization that places people at the center of development. Through strategic collaboration with government institutions, development partners, local leaders, schools, health facilities, civil society organizations, and communities themselves, we have strengthened systems that support children, youth, women, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. Our work continues to demonstrate that sustainable change is possible when communities are empowered with the knowledge, skills, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive.

In 2025, we were particularly encouraged by the progress made in disability inclusion. Through our Assistive Technology and Rehabilitation Program, hundreds of children and adults with disabilities gained access to mobility and positioning devices that enhanced their independence, dignity, and participation in community life. We also expanded access to vision support services through the distribution of reading glasses, enabling many individuals to improve productivity and quality of life. Equally important was the progress made in strengthening inclusive health and WASH services, promoting mental health and psychosocial wellbeing, supporting adolescent girls and teenage mothers, and fostering safer and more inclusive communities.

We are also deeply grateful to Hope smiles for the invaluable dental outreach services provided to communities in Oyam District and Lira during 2025. Their contribution helped improve access to oral healthcare services for vulnerable individuals who would otherwise have limited opportunities to receive quality dental care. Partnerships such as these continue to demonstrate the power of collaboration in improving health outcomes and restoring hope within underserved communities.

As an organization, we remain proud of the dedication and professionalism demonstrated by our staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, and community structures throughout the year. Their commitment, combined with the trust and support of our partners and donors, has enabled CFI to achieve meaningful and lasting impact. The successes highlighted in this report are the result of collective effort, careful planning, strong partnerships, and an unwavering commitment to serving vulnerable communities.

On behalf of Community Focus International, I extend my sincere appreciation to our development partners, including World Vision Uganda, Global Fund for Children, GRiC, Plan International, DANIDA, Read to Learn Foundation, Sufficiency of Scriptures Ministries, Hopesmiles, Restoring Vision, local governments, community leaders, and all individuals who supported our work throughout the year. Your partnership continues to inspire and strengthen our efforts to create positive change.

As we look toward the future, we remain committed to expanding our reach, strengthening community resilience, promoting inclusion, and delivering innovative solutions that improve lives. Together, we will continue building healthier, more educated, economically empowered, and inclusive communities where every individual has the opportunity to realize their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support and confidence in our work.



Benson Ocan
Founder and Executive Director
Community Focus International (CFI)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2025 marked another significant milestone in the growth and impact of Community Focus International (CFI) as we continued to transform lives and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities across Northern Uganda. Through strategic partnerships, community-driven approaches, and innovative programming, CFI expanded its reach and deepened its impact in the areas of Education, Health and WASH, Disability Inclusion, Assistive Technology, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, and Socio-Economic Empowerment.

In the Education sector, CFI implemented the Alternative Basic Education (ABE) Project through the Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) methodology, reaching 456 learners in government-aided primary schools across Lira and Oyam districts. The program significantly improved foundational literacy and numeracy skills while strengthening parental engagement, with 379 parents and caregivers actively participating in children's learning. Through Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Child Caregiver Centers, 323 young children benefited from play-based learning approaches that enhanced school readiness and holistic development. Additionally, the Literacy on Wheels initiative reached 502 children through mobile libraries, fostering a culture of reading in underserved communities.

CFI continued to champion disability inclusion through its Assistive Technology Program. During the year, 197 individuals were assessed for mobility support, while 68 tricycles and 125 Cerebral Palsy (CP) chairs were fabricated at the organization's workshop in Lira City. Through partnerships with Sufficiency of Scriptures Ministries and World Vision, hundreds of persons with disabilities gained access to wheelchairs, CP chairs, tricycles, crutches, and other mobility devices, improving their independence, dignity, and participation in community life. The organization also received 7,500 reading glasses from Restoring Vision and successfully assessed and distributed appropriate glasses to 758 beneficiaries across the Lango and Acholi sub-regions. Economic empowerment remained a cornerstone of CFI's work. Through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), seed capital of UGX 6.5 million provided to disability groups grew to UGX 9.7 million within one year, demonstrating the effectiveness of community-led financial inclusion models. The organization further supported youth and adolescent groups with savings kits, entrepreneurship training, vocational skills development, tailoring training, craft shoe making, and livelihood initiatives that strengthened household incomes and resilience. CFI's piggery project also expanded from 10 households in 2020 to 37 households by the end of 2025.

Under the Health and WASH Program, implemented through the Health and Nutrition for All (HANA) Project and the Safe and Inclusive Cities Project, CFI strengthened access to inclusive health services, sanitation, and sexual and reproductive health information. The organization established 40 Youth-Friendly Spaces, facilitated Community-Led Total Sanitation activities in 24 communities, supported four villages to achieve Open Defecation Free status, and trained 133 Citizen Voice and Action practitioners to strengthen accountability in health and WASH service delivery. More than 250 adolescents and youth received Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) education, while 267 young people accessed integrated health outreach services. Through Male Action Champion initiatives and community awareness campaigns, CFI promoted positive masculinity, reduced gender-based violence, and strengthened support systems for teenage mothers and vulnerable youth.

A major organizational achievement in 2025 was the expansion of CFI's operational footprint into Adjumani District following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the district local government. The organization also initiated engagement with the Office of the Prime Minister to facilitate programming within refugee settlement areas. These developments position CFI for greater impact among refugee and host communities in the years ahead.

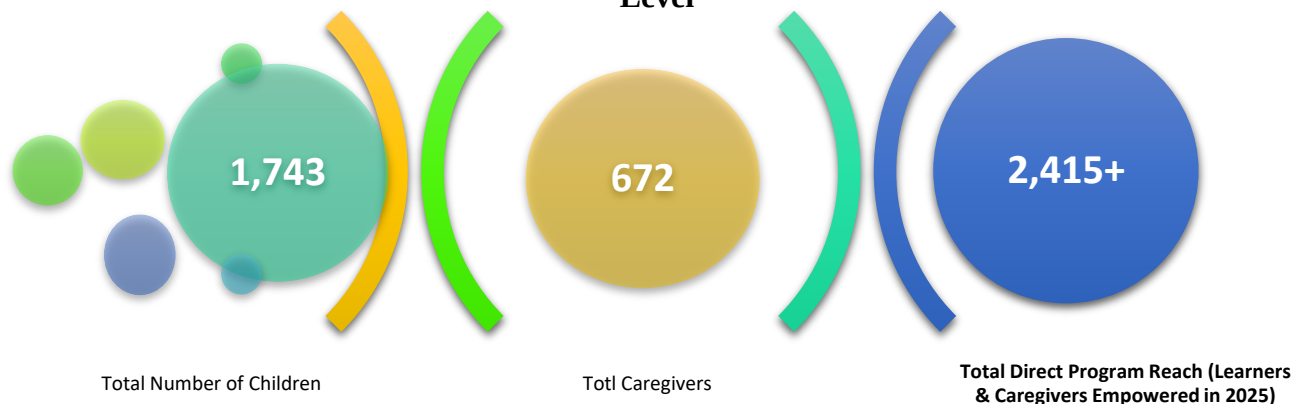
The achievements highlighted in this report were made possible through the unwavering support of our partners, including World Vision Uganda, Global Fund for Children, Grassroots Nest for Innovation and Change (GRiC), Plan International, DANIDA, Read to Learn Foundation, Restoring Vision, Sufficiency of Scriptures Ministries, Hopesmiles, local governments, and community structures. Together, we continue to create opportunities, restore dignity, and build resilient communities where every child, woman, youth, and person with a disability can thrive.

Building Foundations for Learning, Wellbeing, & Lifelong Success

At Community Focus International (CFI), we believe that every child deserves the opportunity to learn, thrive, and realize their full potential regardless of their background or circumstances. Throughout 2025, our Education and Child Development Program continued to address some of the most pressing barriers to learning in Northern Uganda through innovative, community-centered, and evidence-based approaches.

Our interventions focused on strengthening foundational literacy and numeracy skills, expanding access to quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) services, promoting reading culture through community-based literacy initiatives, and improving children's mental health and psychosocial wellbeing through play-based approaches. Through strong partnerships with schools, parents, communities, local governments, and development partners, we reached thousands of children and caregivers across Lira, Oyam, and Kole districts.

Alternative Basic Education (ABE): Restoring Learning Through Teaching at the Right Level



"When children learn, play, read, and feel supported, communities thrive."

● Learning for Every Child, at the Right Level

In 2025, Community Focus International continued implementing the Alternative Basic Education (ABE) Project using the globally recognized Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) methodology. The intervention was designed to address learning gaps among children who were unable to acquire foundational literacy competencies through conventional classroom instruction.

The program was implemented in three government-aided primary schools:

01

● Abunga Primary School

02

● Anyomolyec Primary School

03

● Otwal Primary School

Through structured learner assessments, ability-based grouping, targeted instruction, and continuous monitoring, a total of **456 learners** received focused support to strengthen their literacy competencies.

Unlike traditional classroom arrangements where learners are grouped according to age or grade level, the TaRL model groups learners according to their actual learning abilities, enabling facilitators to provide tailored support that meets each child's learning needs.

Key Achievements

456 learners participated in structured literacy improvement sessions.

30+ hours of targeted instruction were delivered in accordance with TaRL implementation standards.

Learners demonstrated significant progression from letter recognition to word reading, paragraph reading, and story comprehension.

Many learners who previously struggled to identify letters and sounds advanced to independent reading levels by the end of the intervention cycle.

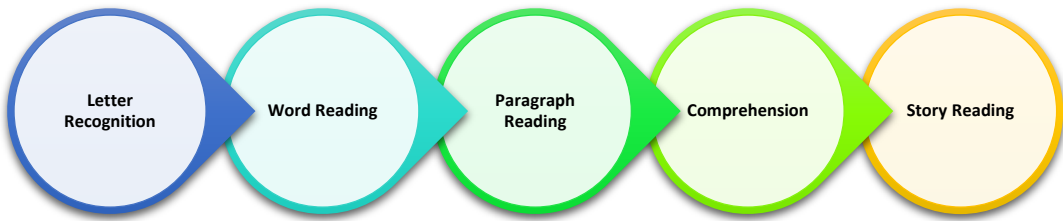
Improved learner confidence, participation, and classroom engagement were observed across all participating schools.

Teachers adopted more learner-centered instructional approaches and strengthened continuous assessment practices.

Learner Progression and Transition

The most significant achievement of the ABE project was the observable progression in foundational literacy competencies among participating learners.

Baseline assessments revealed that many children were unable to read simple words or comprehend basic texts despite being enrolled in upper primary classes. Through regular TaRL sessions, learners steadily progressed through the learning ladder:



The intervention demonstrated that when instruction is aligned to a child's actual learning level, significant learning gains can be achieved within a relatively short period.

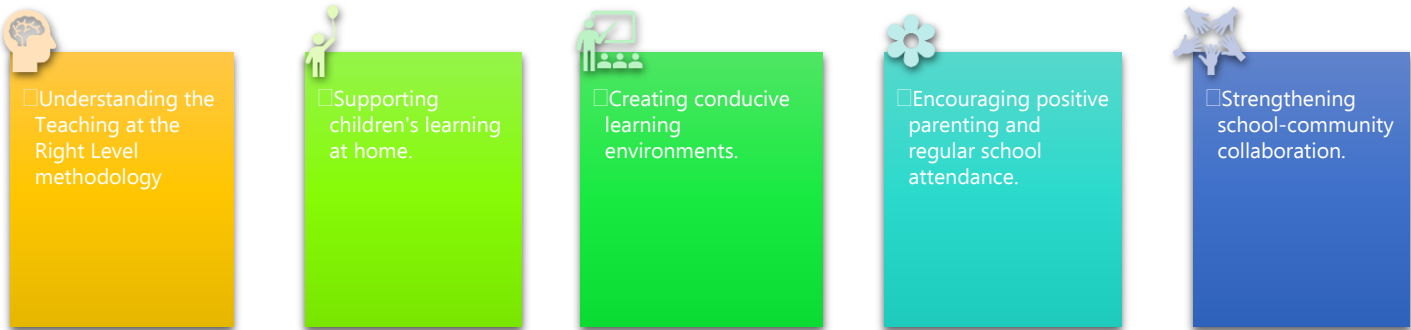
Teachers reported increased learner participation, improved attendance, greater classroom confidence, and enhanced readiness to engage with the formal curriculum.

Parents as Learning Partners

Recognizing that learning extends beyond the classroom, CFI invested heavily in parental and caregiver engagement.

A total of **379 parents and caregivers** participated in structured engagement sessions across Lira and Oyam districts.

The sessions focused on:



As a result, parents increasingly appreciated the importance of foundational literacy and became active contributors to their children's learning journeys. Many caregivers reported spending more time reading with their children, monitoring homework, and engaging with teachers on learner progress.

The active participation of caregivers strengthened community ownership and enhanced sustainability of learning outcomes.

"For the first time, I could clearly see my child's reading progress. The TaRL approach helped me understand how learning happens step by step."



Parent,
Oyam District

● Early Childhood Development and Childcare Centers

Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life

CFI recognizes that investments made during early childhood have lifelong impacts on learning, wellbeing, and future success.

Throughout 2025, the organization continued strengthening quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) services through community-based learning centers that provide safe, nurturing, and stimulating environments for young children.

A total of **323 children** were enrolled across six learning centers:

Lira District

- Opem ECD Centre

Kole District

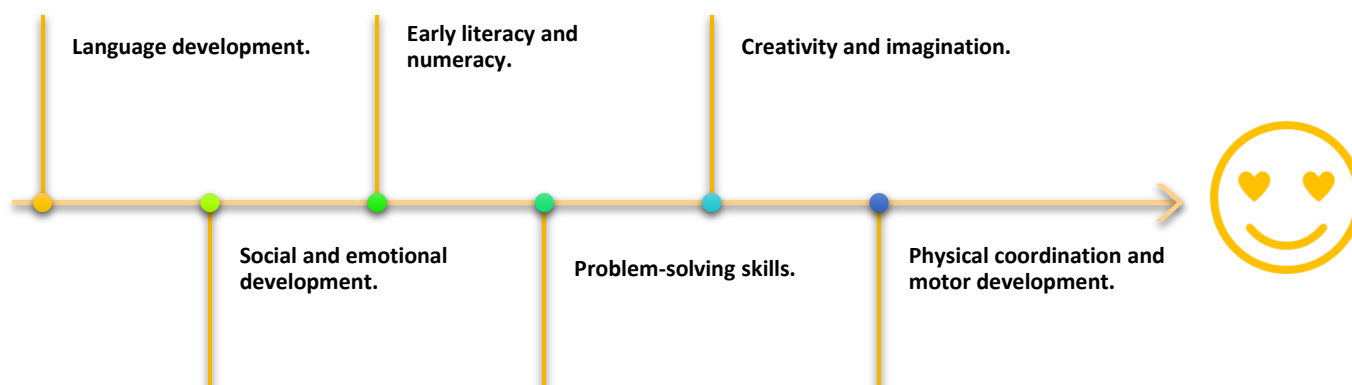
- St. Thomas ECD and ECCD Centre
- Ilera ECD Centre

Oyam District

- Excell ECD and Child Care Centre

Our Play-Based Learning Approach

CFI's ECD model places play at the center of child development.



Rather than relying on rote learning, children engage in structured play activities that promote:

Children participated in storytelling, singing, role play, games, drawing, outdoor learning activities, and interactive group exercises designed to support holistic development.

Impact on Children

The play-based methodology contributed to:

- Increased school readiness among young learners.
- Improved communication and language skills.
- Enhanced confidence and self-expression.
- Stronger social interactions and peer relationships.
- Better emotional regulation and resilience.
- Increased caregiver involvement in early learning.



Teachers and caregivers reported noticeable improvements in children's curiosity, concentration, and enthusiasm for learning.

The ECD centers also served as safe spaces where children could learn, play, and develop positive relationships while preparing for successful transition into primary education.

Literacy on Wheels



Pilot School Hub

Barapwo Primary School served as the central inventory repository where volunteer champions mobilize books to reach 502 remote children.

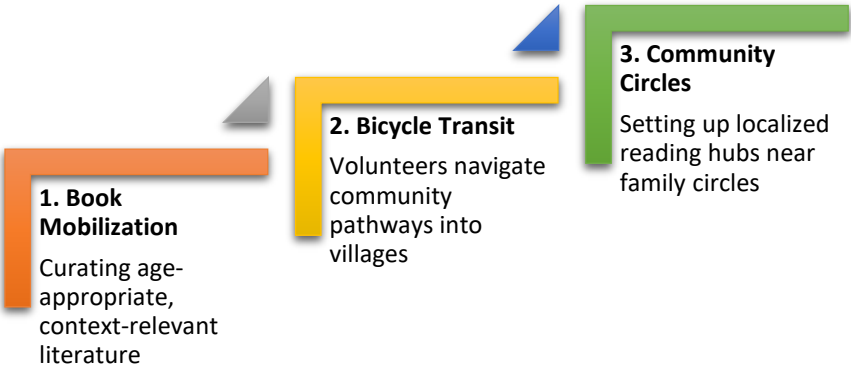
- 01

Guided Reading Circles
- 02

Mobile Book Borrowing
- 03

Peer Literacy Clubs
- 04

Reading Contests



Bringing Books Closer to Children

In partnership with Read to Learn Foundation, Community Focus International proudly piloted the innovative **Literacy on Wheels** initiative at Barapwo Primary School.

The initiative was developed to address one of the greatest barriers to literacy development in rural and peri-urban communities—limited access to reading materials.

Innovation in Action

Using bicycles as mobile libraries, trained Literacy Champions transported books directly into communities, ensuring that children could access age-appropriate reading materials close to their homes.

Rather than waiting for children to come to libraries, Literacy on Wheels took libraries to children.

This innovative approach expanded access to books for children who previously had little or no opportunity to engage with reading materials outside school.

Reach and Results

Through the support of volunteer Literacy Champions, the initiative reached **502 children** across communities surrounding Barapwo Primary School.

Children participated in:

- Community reading sessions.

- Storytelling circles.
- Guided reading activities.
- Reading competitions.
- Book borrowing opportunities.
- Peer-to-peer literacy clubs.

Transforming Reading Culture

The Literacy on Wheels initiative contributed to:

- Increased interest in reading among children.
- Improved reading fluency and comprehension.
- Greater access to diverse learning materials.
- Increased community involvement in children's education.
 - Establishment of positive reading habits beyond the classroom.

Parents reported seeing children spend more time reading at home, while teachers observed increased confidence among learners when engaging with classroom texts.

The initiative demonstrated that simple, community-driven innovations can significantly improve literacy outcomes and cultivate a culture of reading.

Thriving Through Play (TTP)

Strengthening Children's Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing

In partnership with Global Fund for Children, Community Focus International implemented the **Thriving Through Play (TTP)** initiative to improve children's mental health, psychosocial wellbeing, and resilience.

The initiative recognizes that learning cannot happen effectively when children are struggling with stress, anxiety, trauma, family conflict, or social isolation.

By integrating play, psychosocial support, parental engagement, and community awareness, the program created safe and nurturing environments where children could thrive emotionally, socially, and academically.

Reach



The initiative was implemented across schools and communities in Northern Uganda through a combination of child-focused and caregiver-focused interventions.

Empowering Parents and Caregivers

Parents and caregivers are children's first teachers, protectors, and emotional anchors.

Through structured training sessions, caregivers were equipped with practical skills to:

- ☐ Promote children's mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- ☐ Strengthen positive parenting practices.
- ☐ Use non-violent discipline approaches.
- ☐ Improve family communication.
- ☐ Identify signs of emotional distress.
- ☐ Seek timely support and referrals.
- ☐ Improve household financial management.
- ☐ Strengthen family relationships and conflict resolution.
- ☐ Enhance collaboration with schools.

As a result, many families reported improved communication, reduced household conflicts, stronger parent-child relationships, and greater awareness of children's emotional needs.

Community Engagement and Awareness Campaigns

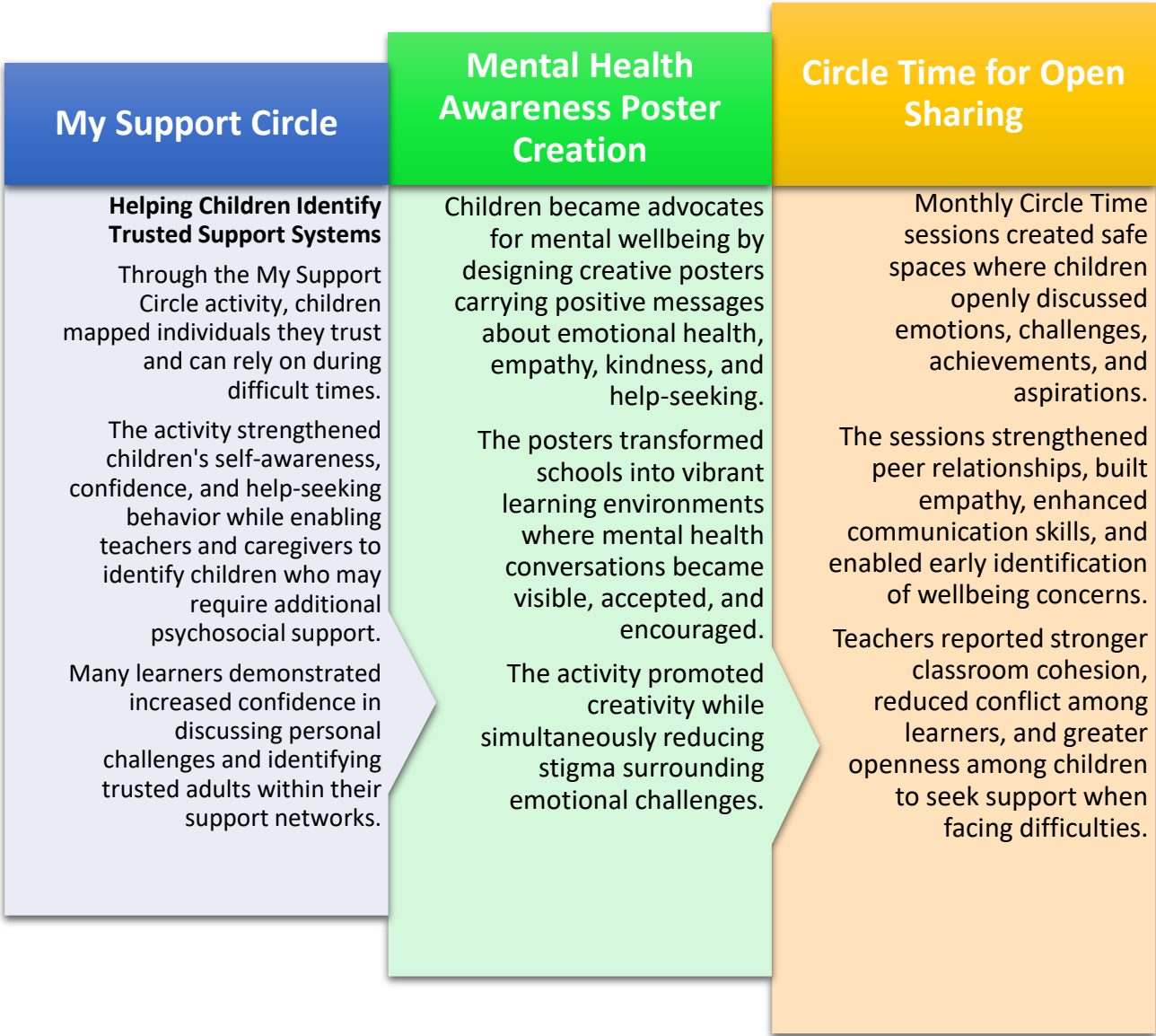
CFI conducted community dialogues, awareness campaigns, school-community events, and stakeholder engagement meetings aimed at transforming attitudes toward children's mental health.

The campaigns promoted key messages:

Mental Health is Part of Overall Health

Strong Minds, Strong Families, Strong Communities

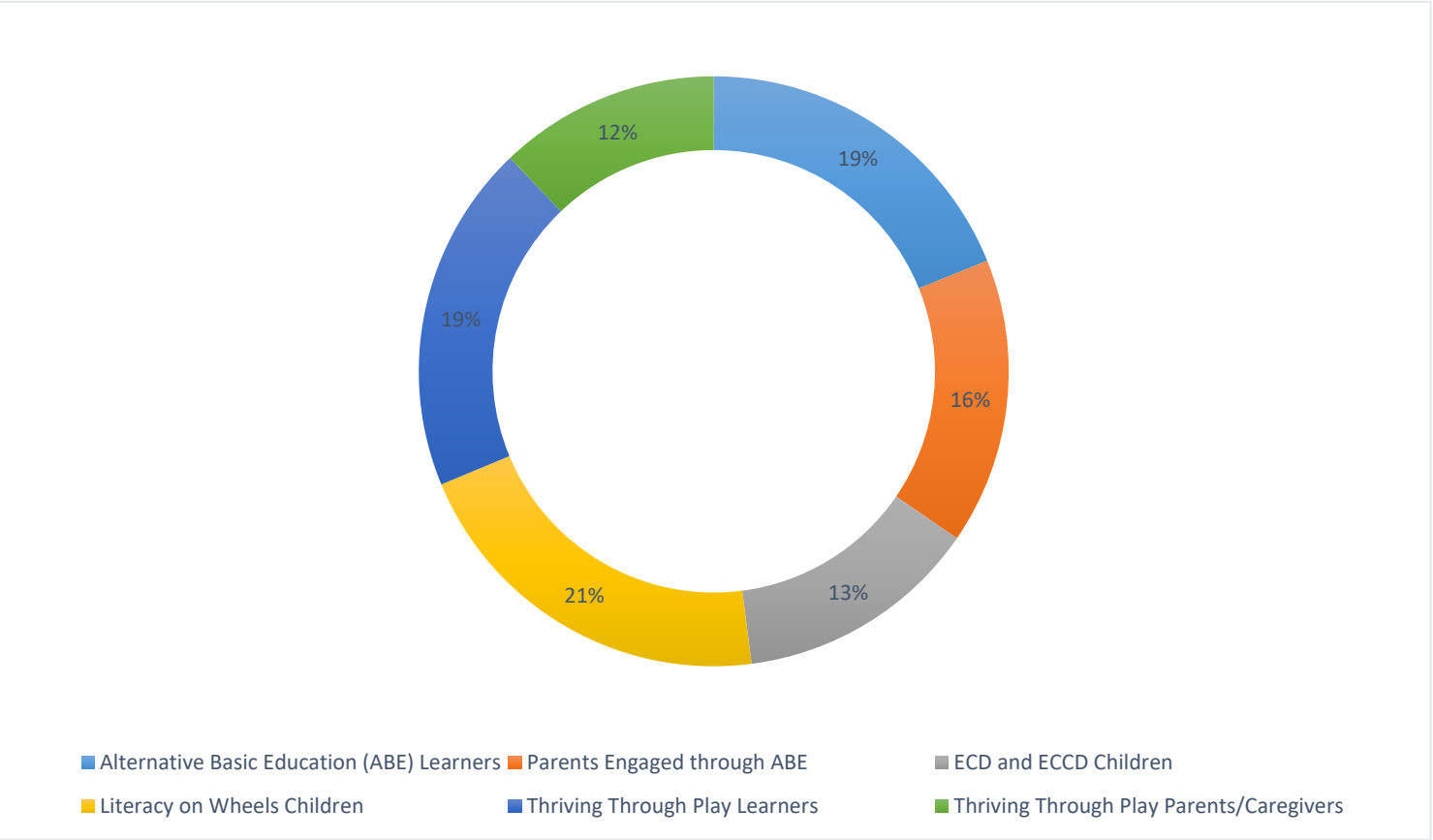
The engagements successfully challenged harmful misconceptions, reduced stigma, and increased community support for children's wellbeing. Local leaders, faith leaders, teachers, youth groups, and parents emerged as advocates for child mental health and psychosocial support.



2,415+ Direct Beneficiaries Reached

INTERVENTION STRATEGY	Target Beneficiary Segment	Reach
Alternative Basic Education (ABE) Learners	Vulnerable Primary Students	456
Parents Engaged through ABE	Supporting Caregivers	379
ECD and ECCD Children	Enrolled Young Learners	323
Literacy on Wheels Children	Barapwo Community Children	502
Thriving Through Play Learners	Psychosocial Support Learners	462
Thriving Through Play Parents/Caregivers	Capacity-Building Support	293

Visual Distribution Graph
Interactive segment breakdown of annual CFI reach.



Key Results



☐ Improved foundational literacy among vulnerable learners.

☐ Enhanced school readiness among young children.

☐ Increased parental engagement in children's education.

☐ Expanded access to books and reading opportunities.



☐ Improved children's mental health and psychosocial wellbeing.

☐ Strengthened community support systems for children.

☐ Promoted positive parenting and safer home environments.

☐ Established stronger school-community partnerships.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Building on the successes of 2025, Community Focus International remains committed to expanding access to quality education, strengthening foundational learning, promoting literacy, and ensuring that every child grows up in an environment where they are safe, supported, mentally healthy, and empowered to succeed.

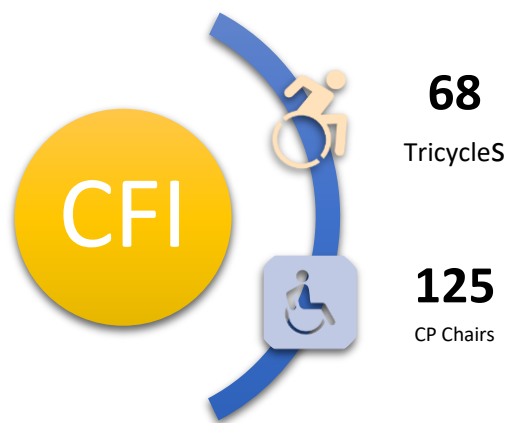
"When children learn, play, read, and feel supported, communities thrive." – Community Focus International.

● ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM

One of Community Focus International's most transformative areas of work in 2025 was the promotion of disability inclusion through the provision of assistive technology and rehabilitation services. Across Northern Uganda, thousands of children and adults living with disabilities continue to face barriers in accessing education, healthcare, livelihoods, and community participation due to the lack of appropriate mobility and positioning devices. Guided by our commitment to dignity, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all, CFI continued to invest in locally driven solutions that improve mobility, independence, and quality of life for persons with disabilities. Through a combination of assessment, local fabrication, distribution, and strategic partnerships, the organization enabled hundreds of individuals to regain mobility, enhance participation in community life, and live with greater confidence and dignity.

Throughout 2025, CFI conducted comprehensive assessments for 197 individuals requiring mobility and positioning support. These assessments were carried out by trained rehabilitation personnel who worked closely with beneficiaries, caregivers, community leaders, and local government structures to determine the most appropriate assistive devices based on individual needs and functional abilities. The assessment process was not only critical in identifying suitable devices but also provided an opportunity to educate families on disability inclusion, proper device use, maintenance, and long-term care. Through this person-centered approach, CFI ensured that each beneficiary received support tailored to their specific circumstances and environment.

A major highlight during the year was the continued growth of CFI's Assistive Technology Workshop in Lira City, which serves as an important center for innovation and disability-inclusive development. The workshop continued to produce high-quality mobility and positioning devices that are adapted to local conditions and the realities faced by persons with disabilities in rural and urban communities. During the reporting period, the workshop successfully fabricated 68 hand-powered tricycles and 125 Cerebral Palsy (CP) chairs. The locally manufactured tricycles provided a practical and durable mobility solution for individuals with lower limb disabilities, enabling them to travel independently to schools, health facilities, markets, places of worship, and community gatherings. At the same time, the production of CP chairs significantly improved the lives of children living with Cerebral Palsy and related conditions by providing the postural support needed for sitting, learning, feeding, communication, and participation in daily activities.



The impact of the CP chair initiative was particularly profound. For many children with severe physical disabilities, access to a customized seating device represented the first opportunity to sit comfortably and safely for extended periods. Caregivers reported improvements in children's posture, interaction with family members, participation in educational activities, and overall wellbeing. Many children who had previously spent most of their time lying down were able to engage more actively with their surroundings, enhancing both their physical development and social inclusion. The initiative also reduced the caregiving burden on families while promoting greater dignity and independence for the children.

CFI's work in assistive technology was significantly strengthened through partnerships. In 2025, the organization was privileged to receive a generous donation of 125 adult wheelchairs from Sufficiency of Scriptures Ministries, a valued local partner based in Luwero District. This contribution substantially increased CFI's capacity to respond to the growing demand for mobility devices across Northern Uganda. The wheelchairs enabled the organization to reach vulnerable adults living with disabilities who had previously been confined to their homes or dependent on caregivers for movement. The partnership demonstrated the power of collaboration in addressing barriers faced by persons with disabilities and expanding access to life-changing mobility support.



Distribution at Iceme Subcouny (Oyam)



Child with disability happy after recevieing thier CP chair at CFI Office Lira, Uganda

In March 2025, CFI organized a major assistive device distribution exercise at its offices in Lira City. The event brought together beneficiaries from Lira District, Lira City, Kwanja District, Oyam District, and Alebtong District who had undergone prior assessment and fitting procedures. During the exercise, 47 wheelchairs, 17 hand-powered tricycles, and 13 CP chairs were distributed to carefully selected beneficiaries. Beyond the distribution itself, the event provided opportunities for device fitting, user orientation, caregiver training, and practical demonstrations on maintenance and safe usage. For many beneficiaries and their families, receiving an assistive device marked a turning point in their lives, opening doors to education, healthcare, livelihoods, and active participation in community life.

The organization's partnership with World Vision further expanded access to assistive technology for children with disabilities. Through this collaboration, World Vision funded the production of 75 specialized CP chairs for children requiring postural support and rehabilitation. These chairs were distributed to vulnerable children in Iceme and Ngai Sub-counties in Oyam District, as well as Bobi, Lakwana, Lalogi, and Odek Sub-counties in Omoro District. The intervention addressed a significant gap faced by families who could not afford specialized positioning equipment for their children. Parents and caregivers reported remarkable improvements in children's comfort, feeding, communication, social interaction, and participation in both school and home activities. The initiative reinforced the importance of early

intervention and access to appropriate assistive technology in supporting child development and inclusion.

CFI also expanded its outreach services through targeted disability assessment and distribution campaigns in underserved districts. In Apac District, the organization conducted assessments and distributed 27 wheelchairs, four tricycles, two pairs of crutches, and one walking frame to individuals with mobility challenges. These devices enabled beneficiaries to move more independently, access essential services, and participate more actively in economic and social activities. The intervention also reduced the physical and emotional burden on caregivers who previously struggled to support family members with mobility limitations.



Distribution of wheelchairs in partnership with World Vision



Follow up on wheelchair use and maintenance

Similarly, in Alwa Sub-county in Kaberamaido District, CFI conducted community-based assessments and distributed 18 wheelchairs and three tricycles to persons with disabilities identified through local referral mechanisms. The support provided renewed hope and opportunities for beneficiaries who had previously faced significant barriers to movement and participation. Community leaders observed increased visibility of disability issues and greater participation of persons with disabilities in local development initiatives following the intervention.

Target District	Device Breakdown	Total Reach	Key Impact Metric
Apac District	27 Wheelchairs, 4 Tricycles, 2 Crutches, 1 Frame	34 Devices	Reduced physical and mental strain on isolated families and caregivers.
Kaberamaido District (Alwa Sub-County)	18 Wheelchairs, 3 Tricycles	21 Devices	Boosted PWD community representation and visibility in local groups.

In addition to mobility and positioning support, 2025 marked an important milestone in CFI's efforts to address visual impairment and age-related vision challenges. During the year, the organization was blessed to receive a donation of 7,500 reading glasses from the organization Restoring Vision in the United States of America. This generous contribution enabled CFI to extend its rehabilitation and inclusion efforts to individuals experiencing difficulties with near vision, many of whom had struggled silently for years without access to affordable eye care services.



7,500

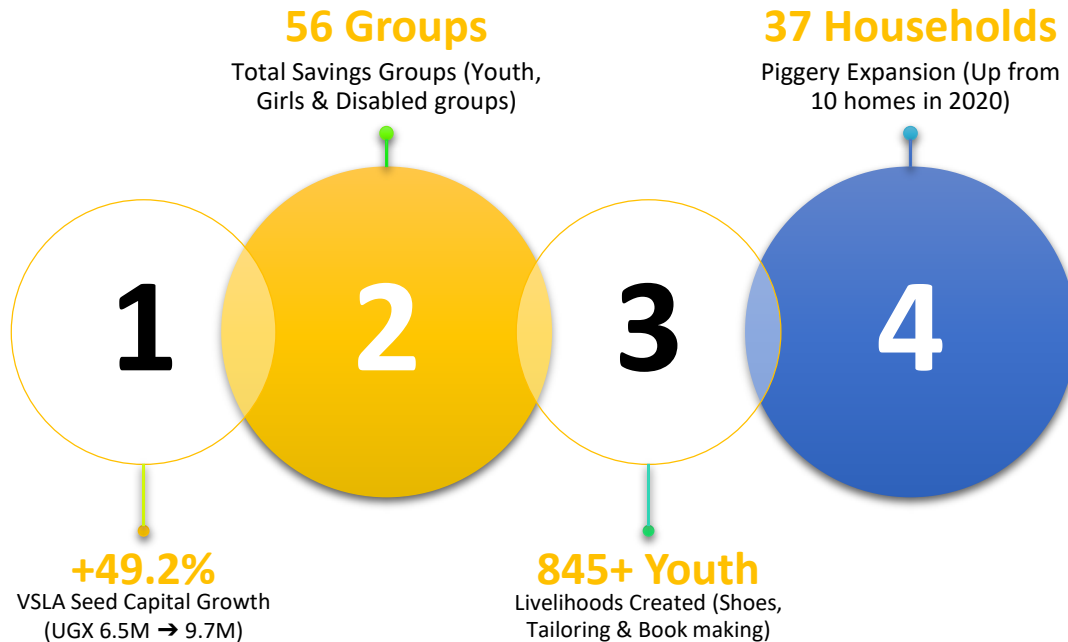
READING GLASSES
RECEIVED

Following the donation, CFI mobilized and trained assessment teams to conduct vision screening exercises across communities in the Lango and parts of the Acholi sub-region. Through these outreach activities, 758 beneficiaries were assessed and provided with appropriate reading glasses based on their visual needs. Beneficiaries included older persons, teachers, caregivers, business owners, farmers, community leaders, and other members of the community whose daily activities depended on clear vision. The intervention generated immediate and visible impact, enabling individuals to read educational materials, religious texts, medication instructions, financial records, and other important documents with greater ease and confidence. For many beneficiaries, receiving reading glasses restored not only their vision but also their independence, productivity, and quality of life.

The achievements recorded under the Assistive Technology and Rehabilitation Program in 2025 demonstrate that access to appropriate assistive devices can transform lives, restore dignity, and create pathways to opportunity. Whether through a wheelchair, tricycle, CP chair, walking aid, or reading glasses, each intervention contributed to breaking down barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from participating fully in society. As Community Focus International looks ahead, the organization remains committed to strengthening disability-inclusive programming, expanding local production of assistive technology devices, building strategic partnerships, and ensuring that every person, regardless of ability, has the opportunity to live independently, participate meaningfully, and realize their full potential.



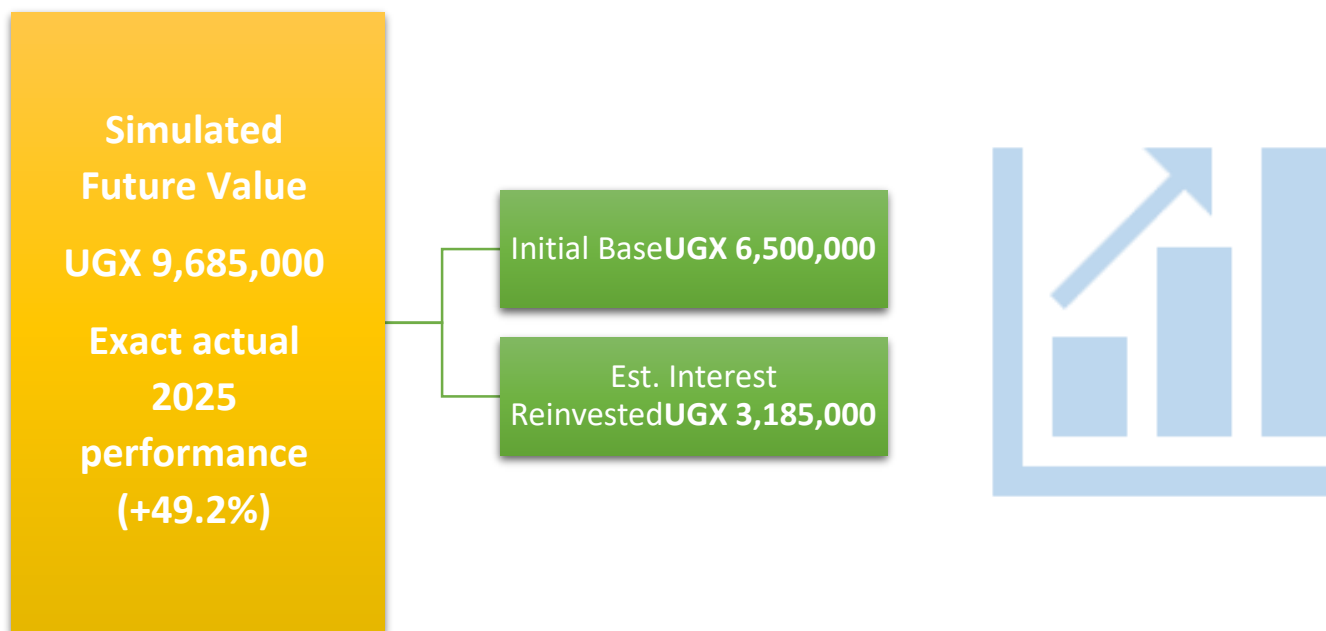
● SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM



Economic empowerment remains one of the most effective pathways for reducing poverty, strengthening resilience, and creating sustainable opportunities for vulnerable populations. At Community Focus International (CFI), we recognize that many households, particularly those headed by persons with disabilities, women, adolescent girls, and young people, continue to face significant barriers to financial inclusion, productive employment, and sustainable livelihoods. Throughout 2025, CFI implemented a range of socio-economic empowerment interventions designed to strengthen household incomes, improve financial literacy, promote entrepreneurship, and equip vulnerable individuals with practical skills needed to build secure and self-reliant futures.

A cornerstone of our economic empowerment approach is the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) model, which enables communities to mobilize local resources, build savings cultures, and access affordable credit. During the year, CFI provided seed capital worth UGX 6,500,000 to eight VSLA groups comprising persons with disabilities and their caregivers in Barr and Otwal Sub-counties. The seed capital was strategically invested within the groups to strengthen their internal lending mechanisms and provide members with access to affordable loans for income-generating activities. Through regular savings, disciplined borrowing, timely repayments, and effective group management, the capital demonstrated remarkable growth. By December 2025, the initial investment had increased to UGX 9,700,000, representing a significant return generated through interest earned from loans issued to group members.

The growth of the VSLA funds reflects not only sound financial management but also the determination of group members to transform their livelihoods. Through access to affordable credit, members established and expanded small businesses including retail shops, produce trading, tailoring, livestock rearing, food vending, and agricultural enterprises. Many beneficiaries who previously depended entirely on family support or irregular income sources reported increased household earnings, improved food security, enhanced ability to pay school fees, and greater confidence in meeting their daily needs. The VSLA groups have also become important platforms for peer support, knowledge sharing, and collective problem-solving, further strengthening social cohesion and community resilience. The success of these groups demonstrates that when persons with disabilities and caregivers are provided with opportunities and resources, they are capable of achieving meaningful economic progress and contributing actively to local development.



CFI's partnership with World Vision under the Health and Nutrition for All (HANA) Project further expanded financial inclusion opportunities for young people across the Acholi Sub-region. During the reporting period, the organization supported 30 adolescent and youth savings groups across the seven sub-counties of Iceme, Ngai, Bobi, Lakwana, Lalogi, Odek, and Pajule. Each group received a complete savings kit comprising a savings box, passbooks, savings ledgers, stamps, pens, rulers, padlocks, and thumb pads. These materials were essential in promoting transparency, accountability, and proper record keeping within the groups. The savings kits strengthened the operational capacity of the groups and enabled members to establish structured savings systems that encourage financial discipline and collective wealth creation. Through regular savings and loan activities, young people gained practical experience in financial management while building capital for future investments and livelihood opportunities.



Under the Safe and Inclusive Cities Project, implemented in partnership with Plan International and funded by DANIDA, CFI continued to strengthen economic opportunities for vulnerable adolescent girls and teenage mothers in Lira City. During the year, the organization supported 18 savings groups by providing savings kits and technical support aimed at strengthening group functionality and sustainability. Recognizing the importance of formal recognition and institutional support, CFI facilitated the registration of these groups with Lira City East Division and Lira City West Division. Registration enhanced the legitimacy of the groups, improved their access to government services and development opportunities, and positioned them for future engagement with financial institutions and livelihood support programs.



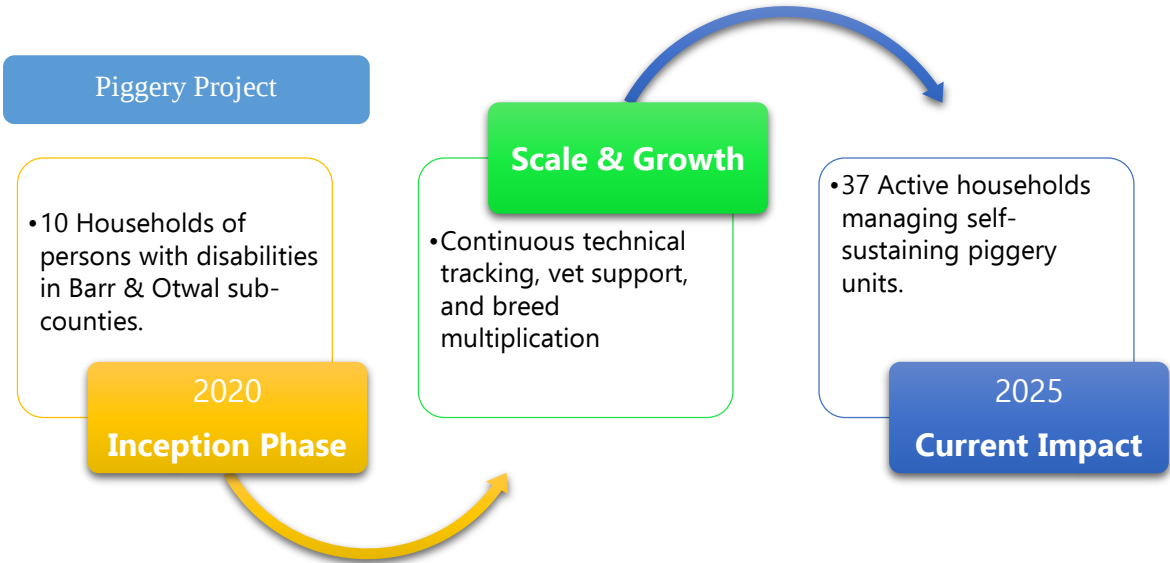
Beyond providing savings infrastructure, CFI invested heavily in capacity building for group members. Adolescents and teenage mothers participated in comprehensive training sessions covering financial literacy, group governance, entrepreneurship, business planning, and enterprise management. These trainings equipped participants with practical skills to manage finances responsibly, run successful businesses, maintain transparent group operations, and make informed economic decisions. As a result, many group members demonstrated increased confidence in managing savings, investing in small enterprises, and pursuing economic opportunities that contribute to household wellbeing and self-reliance.



Skills development remained a critical component of CFI's socio-economic empowerment strategy. Through the HANA Project, the organization supported 16 youth groups, each comprising 45 adolescent and youth members, with vocational skills training in book making. This initiative was designed to provide young people with marketable skills that could generate income and create pathways toward economic independence. Following the completion of the training, the groups received startup support to enable them to establish and operate their enterprises. To strengthen ownership, accountability, and sustainability, the startup materials were officially handed over through local sub-county leadership structures. This approach fostered community oversight and increased the likelihood of long-term success for the enterprises. The book making initiative has provided participating youth with practical business experience while creating opportunities for collective income generation and entrepreneurship.

In addition to group-based livelihood interventions, CFI launched a tailoring skills development program targeting vulnerable adolescent girls and teenage mothers under the Safe and Inclusive Cities Project. The training program, hosted at the CFI office in Lira City, enrolled 27 adolescent girls and teenage mothers who are undertaking an intensive six-month tailoring course. The initiative was established in recognition of the challenges many young mothers face in accessing employment and income-generating opportunities. Through the training, participants are acquiring practical tailoring, garment construction, and entrepreneurship skills that will prepare them for gainful employment or self-employment upon graduation. Beyond technical skills, the program is helping participants rebuild confidence, develop aspirations, and create pathways toward economic independence. Upon completion, the trainees will be equipped to enter the labor market, establish tailoring businesses, or join existing enterprises within their communities.

CFI is also proud of the continued success of its community-based piggery initiative, which has emerged as one of the organization's most sustainable livelihood models. The project was initially launched in 2020 with only 10 households of persons with disabilities in Barr and Otwal Sub-counties. Through careful planning, beneficiary commitment, and continuous technical support, the initiative has experienced steady growth over the years. By the end of 2025, the project had expanded to benefit 37 households across the two sub-counties. The piggery project has provided participating households with a reliable source of income through the sale of piglets and mature pigs, enabling families to invest in education, healthcare, housing improvements, and small businesses. Many beneficiaries who initially joined the project with limited economic opportunities have since diversified their income sources and established independent enterprises. The success of the piggery model demonstrates the transformative potential of community-driven livelihood interventions and provides a scalable approach for supporting economic inclusion among persons with disabilities.



Another significant achievement during the year was realized through CFI's partnership with the Girls' Rights Initiative Centre (GRiC) under the Girls' Economic Empowerment Program. Through this initiative, 100 girls aged between 13 and 20 years participated in training on craft shoe making, a locally relevant and marketable skill with strong income-generation potential. The training equipped participants with practical skills in designing, producing, and marketing handcrafted footwear. Following the training, the girls organized themselves into production groups and established a joint enterprise focused on manufacturing and selling craft shoes within local markets and surrounding communities.

To complement their technical skills, the participants also received training in digital marketing, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, customer care, and business management. These additional competencies strengthened their ability to market products effectively, manage finances, maintain business records, and identify growth opportunities. The integration of digital marketing skills enabled the girls to explore new market channels and increase the visibility of their products beyond traditional local markets. The initiative has not only enhanced income-generating opportunities for the participants but has also strengthened their confidence, leadership skills, and economic resilience. Many of the girls have become role models within their communities, demonstrating the positive impact of investing in adolescent girls' economic empowerment.

The achievements recorded under the Socio-Economic Empowerment Program in 2025 demonstrate CFI's commitment to addressing poverty and vulnerability through sustainable, community-driven solutions. By combining savings and lending initiatives, vocational skills development, entrepreneurship training, business support, and livelihood diversification, the organization has enabled vulnerable households, persons with disabilities, adolescent girls, teenage mothers, and young people to build assets, increase incomes, and strengthen their resilience against economic shocks. The stories emerging from these interventions reflect not only improved livelihoods but also restored hope, confidence, and opportunities for a brighter future.



As CFI looks toward the future, the organization remains committed to expanding economic empowerment opportunities, strengthening community-based enterprises, promoting financial inclusion, and ensuring that vulnerable populations have the skills, resources, and support necessary to achieve sustainable economic independence. Through continued partnerships and innovative programming, CFI will continue empowering individuals and communities to move from vulnerability to self-reliance and prosperity.

●HEALTH, NUTRITION AND WASH PROGRAM

Community Focus International (CFI) continued to advance inclusive health, nutrition, and WASH outcomes in 2025 through strategic partnerships and community-driven interventions that prioritized women, children, adolescents, youth, and persons with disabilities. Through the Health and Nutrition for All (HANA) Project, implemented in partnership with World Vision, CFI contributed to efforts aimed at reducing preventable illnesses, malnutrition, disability-related barriers, and poor access to essential health services across Oyam, Omoro, and Pader districts. The project sought to improve the health and wellbeing of vulnerable households by promoting inclusive health services, improved nutrition practices, enhanced sanitation and hygiene behaviors, and stronger community accountability mechanisms.

Under Outcome Three of the HANA Project, CFI focused on improving access to and utilization of inclusive quality health and WASH services. Recognizing the critical role that young people play in promoting healthier communities, the organization established 40 Youth-Friendly Spaces across the project areas. These spaces provided safe environments where adolescents and young people could access accurate health information, discuss sensitive issues, receive guidance, and make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing. The spaces have become important platforms for promoting positive health-seeking behaviors, peer learning, and youth participation in community development.



To address sanitation challenges and eliminate open defecation, CFI worked closely with communities through the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach. During the year, 107 community stakeholders were trained and facilitated to lead sanitation improvement efforts across 24 communities. Their engagement strengthened local ownership and collective action towards improving hygiene practices and sanitation facilities. Additionally, ten villages were successfully triggered under the CLTS model, resulting in four villages achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) status by the end of the reporting period. These achievements have contributed to healthier environments, reduced exposure to waterborne diseases, and increased community awareness on sanitation and hygiene.

Community accountability remained a key pillar of the program. To strengthen citizen participation in service delivery monitoring, CFI facilitated 133 Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) practitioners to monitor government and community investments in health and WASH services. Through regular dialogue with duty bearers and service providers, communities were empowered to advocate for improved service quality, accessibility, and inclusion, particularly for vulnerable populations and persons with disabilities. This approach has strengthened transparency, accountability, and responsiveness within local health and WASH systems.

In Lira City, CFI continued implementing the Safe and Inclusive Cities Project in partnership with Plan International and with funding from DANIDA. The project focused on strengthening Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), preventing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), supporting teenage parents, and promoting safer and more inclusive communities for young people. Through structured peer-to-peer SRHR education sessions conducted across Barogole, Baronger, Kakooge, Bazzar, and Teso/Junior Quarters, more than 250 adolescents and youth were equipped with critical knowledge and life skills on puberty, communication, mental health, gender equality, HIV prevention, family planning, stress management, and healthy relationships. Using participatory methods such as storytelling, group discussions,

and role plays, the initiative empowered young people to make informed decisions and become advocates for positive change within their communities.

Complementing the youth-focused interventions was the Male Action Champion (MAC) approach, which engaged men and boys as partners in promoting family wellbeing and preventing gender-based violence. Through dialogues held in community spaces such as bodaboda stages, carpentry workshops, marua clubs, and trading centers, over 245 men and women participated in discussions addressing harmful social norms, positive masculinity, family relationships, conflict resolution, and shared responsibility in households. The initiative fostered meaningful behavioral change, with many men reporting improved communication within families and greater commitment to preventing violence against women and girls. The MAC model has emerged as a powerful platform for promoting community ownership in the fight against SGBV and creating safer environments for women and children.



The organization also continued strengthening systems for preventing and responding to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Through multi-stakeholder engagements involving police, health workers, community leaders, youth representatives, and religious leaders, CFI facilitated stronger coordination and accountability mechanisms for SGBV prevention and response. A total of 120 stakeholders participated in review and planning meetings aimed at strengthening survivor support pathways and improving service delivery. To further strengthen reporting and referral systems, 1,126 standardized SGBV referral forms were distributed to 22 Local Council I leaders across project areas, enhancing access to timely support, protection, and justice for survivors.

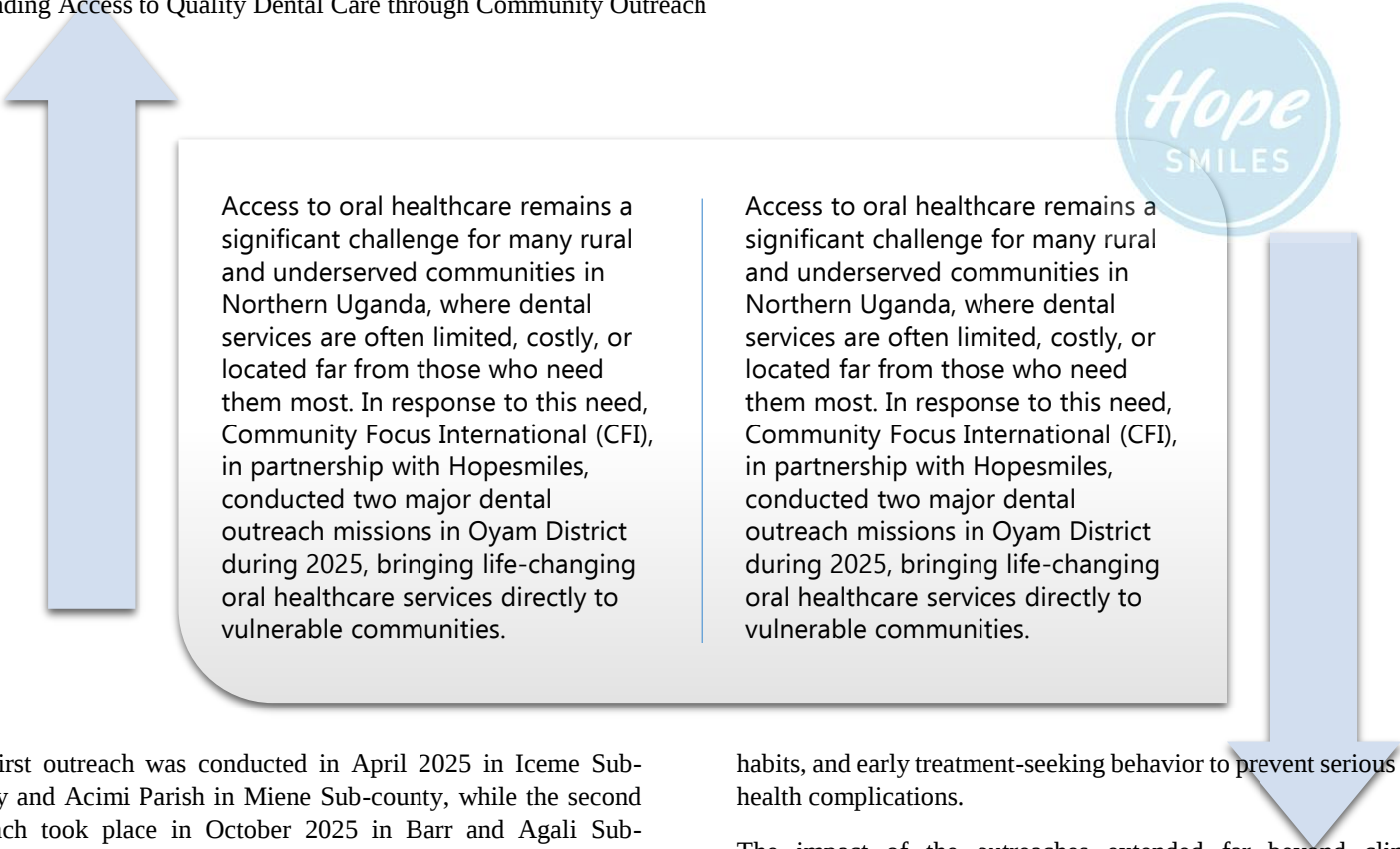
Recognizing the risks faced by women and girls within public transport spaces, CFI conducted eight awareness campaigns targeting transport operators, passengers, and community members across five wards of Lira City. These campaigns reached 904 people, including bodaboda riders, taxi operators, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, with messages promoting zero tolerance to harassment, violence, and abuse. Through community dialogues, storytelling, and practical awareness sessions, participants gained knowledge on reporting mechanisms,

survivor support services, and their role in creating safer transport systems. The initiative also inspired transport operators to become champions for safer public spaces and active advocates against SGBV.

CFI further invested in the rehabilitation and reintegration of vulnerable youth involved in anti-social survival activities including substance abuse, commercial sex work, and street-based livelihoods. Through a structured rehabilitation program implemented across Barogole, Baronger, Bazzar, and Teso wards, 40 vulnerable young people received psychosocial support, counseling, mentorship, life skills training, and substance abuse awareness sessions. Many participants demonstrated significant behavioral transformation and successfully transitioned into education, vocational training, small business activities, and community-based support groups. The intervention restored hope, strengthened self-esteem, and provided pathways for sustainable reintegration into society.

The achievements realized under the Health, Nutrition and WASH Program in 2025 reflect CFI's commitment to building healthier, safer, and more inclusive communities. Through integrated approaches that combine health promotion, sanitation, accountability, youth empowerment, gender equality, and psychosocial support, the organization has strengthened access to essential services while empowering communities to take ownership of their health and wellbeing. As CFI looks ahead, it remains committed to expanding inclusive health programming, strengthening community systems, and ensuring that every individual, regardless of age, gender, disability, or circumstance, has the opportunity to live a healthy, safe, and dignified life.

Expanding Access to Quality Dental Care through Community Outreach



The first outreach was conducted in April 2025 in Iceme Sub-county and Acimi Parish in Miene Sub-county, while the second outreach took place in October 2025 in Barr and Agali Sub-counties. These interventions were designed to reduce barriers to dental care, improve oral health awareness, and provide timely treatment to individuals suffering from dental conditions that had often gone untreated for years.

Across the two outreach missions, a total of 741 patients received comprehensive dental services. The outreach teams provided a wide range of treatments, including tooth extractions, professional dental cleaning, root canal procedures, pain management, oral examinations, and preventive oral healthcare services. In addition, hundreds of community members benefited from oral health education sessions that emphasized the importance of proper oral hygiene practices, regular dental checkups, healthy nutrition

habits, and early treatment-seeking behavior to prevent serious oral health complications.

The impact of the outreaches extended far beyond clinical treatment. Many beneficiaries arrived with severe tooth pain, infections, and other oral health conditions that had affected their ability to eat, work, attend school, and participate fully in daily life. Through the timely interventions provided by the Hopesmiles and CFI teams, patients experienced immediate relief from pain and discomfort, significantly improving their overall wellbeing and quality of life. For many families, the outreach represented the first opportunity to access professional dental care without incurring prohibitive travel and treatment costs.

The outreach also strengthened community awareness about oral health, an often-overlooked component of overall health and wellbeing. Through community sensitization sessions, residents

gained valuable knowledge about preventing dental diseases, caring for their teeth and gums, and recognizing early warning signs that require professional attention. This preventive approach is expected to contribute to healthier communities and reduce the long-term burden of untreated oral diseases.

CFI is deeply grateful to Hopesmiles for their commitment, expertise, and generosity in supporting these outreach activities. Their partnership has not only restored smiles but also renewed hope for hundreds of individuals and families who previously had

limited access to quality dental care. The success of these outreaches demonstrates the power of collaborative partnerships in addressing critical health needs and advancing equitable access to healthcare services for vulnerable populations.

As CFI continues to strengthen its health programming, the organization remains committed to expanding access to essential healthcare services, including oral health, ensuring that even the most underserved communities have the opportunity to live healthier, more productive, and dignified lives.

