



CALM AFRICA END OF YEAR STATEMENT December, 2011

1.0 Introduction

Dear Friends, partners, colleagues and well wishers, I am pleased to share with you 2011 end of year statement. In CALM Africa, it is now becoming a tradition to have end of year statement whereby we give updates of 12 months reflecting on key achievements and developments. 2011 has been a difficult year for the CALM Africa Team with a number of challenges to overcome. The global economic downturn weighed its impact on Ugandan economy manifesting in galloping inflation, food scarcity, affecting businesses and particularly disrupting Charities, including CALM Africa. The impact of this has meant a much lower receipt of donations, fewer volunteers seeking placements with CALM and more worryingly, the spiraling cost of living in Uganda.

So, whilst a difficult year, there is also much to be proud of and to register. Construction of the Dinning Hall went on and the inside work is almost complete; Jolly-Mercy Learning Centre (JMLC) continued to run and received over 20 sponsorship; the construction of the two classroom block for the nursery section is now half way; over 25 poor families were supported with relief items, child protection campaign continued and many other activities. CALM Africa has managed to remain afloat amidst economic storm because of the support of our partners especially Children First Uganda (CFU), volunteers and well wishers. The input, tremendous work, experience, ingenuity, commitment and reputation of our partners and supporters have been crucial in sustaining CALM Africa. We owe a debt of gratitude to all those who have supported us this year and the years before.

We are confident that by building on the recorded successes, CALM Africa shall attain even greater heights in the quest for improved child welfare in 2012. We shall continue with an empowering strategy which gives children the confidence, skills and access to information to transform them from passive recipients into agents of change. JMLC shall continue to be CALM Africa pivot in advancing the rights of children in a pragmatic sense. Working with her partners, CALM Africa will fight to afford vulnerable children the means for their survival, mechanisms for protection, facilities for their development, and an enabling environment for their participation and fertile ground for their provision. Vulnerable children who cannot access quality education and yet prone to child abuse will receive continued attention through making alliances with professionals from different countries, collective advocacy for their rights and protect them from exploitation and against any violence.

2.0 Achievements of CALM Africa in 2011

2.1 Education and Training

- Jolly-Mercy Learning Centre (JMLC) continued to be the pivot of CALM Africa activities. JMLC Dinning Hall though not yet completed; children are now using it during meal times while community members use it for meetings and different functions. A new block to house the nursery section is under construction.
- JMLC got a new headmistress from Uganda-Kenya border and systems have greatly been improved.
- St. James Secondary School received 50 text books from Read International. The Uganda Government decided to offer half sponsorship to 40 students in St. James in senior one under the government program of Universal secondary Education. The school however, still experience problems including water shortage, lack of enough furniture, science apparatuses etc.
- CALM Africa hosted over 700 children and young people with their parents to the JMLC Christmas Party. The party was sponsored by CFU and friends of CALM Africa.

2.1.1 Sponsorship: With the support of friends and partners, CALM Africa has been able to sponsor a number of vulnerable children:

- University: Prossy Nakacubya; an orphan from St. James SSS completed a course at Kyambogo University.
- Irene Nabacwa and Adam Kalisa completed ordinary level at St. James SSS.
- Kelvin completed senior five at Mityana Modern SSS
- Five (5) children between 5 and 12 years at Nambogo Memorial Primary School

2.1.2 Foot ball and Net ball Tournament: CALM Africa Community Supporters initiated end of year tournament to bring together young people in and out of school to play football and netball for purposes of knowing one another, competing in a friendly manner and getting a clear platform to raise awareness against social evils like child murder, child abuse and drug abuse. A total of 8 teams participated in the tournament and Kitegombwa team won the trophy followed by CALM Africa team. This is to become an annual event.

2.1.3 Career Guidance and Internship:

- This year CALM Africa focused on one school; Nalya Royal College with 650 students. The topics shared included; building a career, First aid, proper nutrition for young people, health tips and dynamics of HIV/AIDS. Additionally, 4 self help groups of young people outside school identified by Community Supporters benefitted from career guidance.
- CALM Africa received 5 students from Kyambogo and Makerere Universities to do field work practicum. During their internship with CALM Africa they were attached to the Outreach program for over 4 months.

2.1.4 Trainings:

- This year has seen CALM Africa host and organize a number of trainings both within and outside CALM Africa premises. The trainings began in March with 25 community supporters whose training is to continue into 2012. These are training to work as counsellors and child advocates in Nangabo community.

- The JMLC teachers were trained on less teaching and more learning by CFU (Alistair and Liz). Teachers also had a workshop on self appraisal by CALM Africa volunteers. Capacity building of teachers will go on.
- **CALM Africa came in touch with the International Finance Cooperation, an arm of the World Bank in February 2011.** Since then 7 staff of JMLC and CALM Africa have benefited from a number of trainings including; Strategic planning, Education Management Information Systems, Human Resource Management, and Education Curriculum and Learning. The trainings have always been three day training sessions and there after trainees are awarded certificates of participation in a particular subject.

2.2 Community Outreach and Child Protection Issues

- Child protection campaign remained on course; working with partners to improve child protection mechanisms and fighting child sacrifice/murder. Working with Kataremwa Children's Home for disabled children, CALM Africa has been able to reach out 4 disabled children, adding to the already existing 9. These children received medical attention and material support from partners of CALM.
- Over 40 families were visited, given support in terms of counselling, food and relief materials (self sufficient kits). One destitute family with 5 children from Kampala slums was relocated to Nangabo village near JMLC with the help of African Hope for Single Mothers (AHSM). Children will be sponsored to access quality education in JMLC.
- **Household Trainings:** With the support of the two UK volunteers (Paul and Dee) over 7 households and one women group of 20 women trained in home budgeting, saving culture, parenting skills and proper nutrition.

2.3 Systems and Operations:

- **CALM Africa registered with the National Tax Revenue Authority:** CALM Africa registered with the tax body and received a tax identification number; 1000614774. The tax payable to Uganda Revenue Authority is called PAYE (Pay As You Earn) which is deducted from all the employees who receive more than 130,000.
- **Generator:** CALM Africa through the "*Do we have the Power*" drive, procured a generator. Thanks to Alison Michie who spearheaded this drive.
- **Water Project:** CALM Africa received a solar powered water purifier machine from **Midroc Project management** a Swedish organization with the view of helping out the community access safe clean water. This water purifier is at a cost of 3,000 Euros.
- **The CALM Accountant and Administrator and Cashier/Bursar** attended special trainings in financial management organized by the International Finance Cooperation.

2.4 Construction

- **Dinning Hall Construction:** This construction started in 2010 and continued throughout 2011 whenever funds could be got. It is now complete in the interior remaining mainly with outside plastering and verandah construction. The overall cost required to have it completed is 20,000,000 Uganda shillings (5,000 pounds).

- **Two-class room block:** CALM Africa embarked on the construction of a two classroom block for the nursery section is now half way. The remaining part to complete the block shall cost a total of 15,000,000 Uganda shillings (2750 pounds).
- **Boys Dormitory:** Plans are underway to construct a boys dormitory at the cost of 140,000,000/= (35,000 pounds). This is mainly to cater for the increasing number of boys coming to JMLC and yet the present accommodation we have is for girls. Over 50 boys in a boarding section are using a rented building (courtesy of CFU) and this is not sustainable. **On a positive note CALM Africa acquired land of more than one acre close to JMLC where the proposed dormitory shall be build.**

2.5 Volunteering: Volunteering is a very important aspect of CALM Africa. We encourage people to offer their skills, experience and passion into what we are doing out of ones free will often without being paid. In 2011, we received volunteers from Uganda, England, Scotland, Holland, Australia, Canada, United States of America and Sweden. A total of 37 volunteers worked with CALM Africa in 2011

- Uganda.....7
- Australia.....1
- The United Kingdom.....25
- Sweden.....1
- Netherland/Holland.....1
- Canada.....1
- USA.....1

2.6 Net Working:

- **Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL).** CALM Africa has been in partnership with this organization for quite some time. In 2011 we partnered in fighting commercial sexual exploitation of children and drug abuse. Plans are under way for the two organizations the social net work amongst the youth through sports in order to help them be self reliant and avoid drug abuse.
- **TORUWU:** This is a new partner with CALM Africa. TORUWU supports women and children living with HIV/AIDS by training them to be self reliant. Next year they will be training our community supporters in relevant appropriate skills.
- **African Hope for Single Mothers (AHSM):** They have been our long time partners and we mainly support them through building their capacities and designing strategies for resource mobilizing. AHSM also sponsors two children at JMLC School. They have of recent shifted one foster family from Kampala to Nangabo, where CALM Africa operates from. This will help us to closely monitor the family and support it where necessary.

3.0 Challenges

- Uganda market faces higher food commodity prices that could undermine food security in a world where population and thus the demand for food are sharply on the rise. This has resulted into galloping inflation which has had great impact on charities and CALM Africa is no exception.
- Funding is still very much limited compared to the needs of the community where CALM operates and the child protection issues affecting children.

- The organization has this year received few volunteers compared to the last three years; this has mainly been due to the global economic down turn. Volunteers support CALM Africa activities in a number of ways.

4.0 Remarks

4.1 CALM Africa is still a small organization with determined and focused staff. Over the last three years a number of successes have been registered and with the continued support of our partners we shall do more next year and years to come for greater heights. Our continued stay depend on the fact that problems on children in Africa are on the increase and continue to gain more attention as globalised communication systems have allowed intermediate technology to shed more light on the plight of children.

4.2 In Uganda, children are still seen as a weak link in the human chain and in most cases unable to properly defend their rights. This necessitates the concerted action on the part of the different entities of society. CALM Africa is proud to be one the entities and on the forefront to fight for the welfare of the children especially those in difficult circumstances.

4.3 CALM Africa is nurturing the idea of children's parliament where children can be helped to actively participate in issues that affect their welfare and have a voice. Next year schools will be visited and the idea introduced. We strongly feel that Children's Parliament Concept can indeed help to alleviate the problems associated with the children at risk. Giving the impacted children a voice is a very positive step. Children are key resource and they must be encouraged and empowered to determine their future and reach their full potential.

4.4 In CALM Africa, we believe that every child matters and has rights. And his philosophy is premised on the fact that children are our future. They must be nurtured and inspired. This starts with finding a way to provide them with basic rights. Anything less is simply unacceptable. CALM Africa strongly holds this view.

4.5 CALM Africa is determined to succeed. Every failure is seen as a stepping stone to success and as a temporary set back. We have reached a point of no turning back. CALM Africa shall continue to seek its own solutions as well as a different relationship with the international partners based on mutual respect, trust and collaborative outlook.

5.0 Plans for 2012: CALM Africa will pursue the following objectives and activities:

5.1 Promotion of the Observance of the Rights of the Child

- Campaigns on the rights of a child
- Working to improve child protection mechanisms
- Anti Child Sacrifice/Murder Campaign
- Work in partnership with Civic organizations to promote children's rights
- Seminars and workshops on children's rights
- Monitor and evaluate public understanding of the rights of children
- Visiting schools to promote child participation and rights awareness
- Organize tournaments and music gals to promote the rights of children and self reliance among the youth

5.2 Provide support to vulnerable children

- Categorize and prioritize children living in difficult circumstances and make appropriate interventions.
- Counseling traumatized children.
- Identify and support income generating activities.
- Link disabled children to support agencies.
- Provide relief materials and food to families which need emergency support.
- Identify select, train and support foster families.
- Establish and facilitate dropping centers for vulnerable children
- Food security and environmental protection

5.2 Provide Quality Education to Vulnerable Children and Young People

- Sponsorship scheme for vulnerable children
- Continue to provide schooling for children in the Jolly Mercy Learning Centre, Nangabo, St. James Secondary School, Kyotera and Kiganda Education Centre
- Vocational skills training
- Sponsor children from very poor families.
- Invest in professional development for teaching staff at the CALM Schools.

5.3 Enterprise skills Development

- Trainings young people in enterprise skills.
- Computer Training.
- Enabling trained youth access micro-credit to start small enterprises
- Ride to prosperity; enabling young people to acquire bicycles to ride safely to prosperity
- Support self help groups of young people to improve household income

5.4 Mobilize resources to meet the objectives of CALM Africa

- Write and implement a proper fundraising strategy.
- Write proposals.
- Actively pursue partnership.
- Maintain effective financial management and accounting systems

6.0 CALM Africa Income as per 11th December, 2011

INCOME	Shs	£
Cash balance B/F	37800	9.45
Bank balances B/F	7810629	1,952.66
Directors Contributions	11,822,000	2,955.50
Children First Uganda contributions	110,377,927	27,594.48
Volunteers/development partners	16,061,800	4,015.45
Projects/vocational section	225,000	56.25

Total income	146,335,156	36,583.79
Net Income	146,335,156	36,583.79

7.0 Acknowledgment and Conclusions:

In 2011, Calm Africa has been able to register a number of achievements with limited resources amidst challenges. This has been due to a number of factors especially sharing our vision with people who have a heart for Africa and remaining professional. We are therefore proud and indebted to all those people who have worked hard and supported the work of CALM Africa in different ways.

- **Different government departments** including Ministry of Gender and Labour, Uganda Police, Ministry of Education and Sports and Ministry of Internal Affairs. Local governments including Wakiso District, Nangabo and Kira sub county leaderships and village local councils have always supported activities of CALM Africa.
- **Children First Uganda** continued to give moral, technical and financial support. This support has been of great significance to the achievements recorded by CALM Africa in 2011.
- **European Union –Election Monitoring Group;** donated office furniture and equipment to CALM Africa worth of 20,000,000/= (7000 Euros).
- **Other partners** who have worked closely with CALM Africa this year 2011 include: Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL), African Evangelical Enterprise (AEE), African Hope for Single Mothers (AHSM), Uganda Private Association of Vocational Institutions (UGAPAVI), Kataremwa Children’s Home and International Finance Cooperation.

Calm Africa appreciates the tremendous work and input of all our partners and Friends of CALM Africa. We commend our staff and volunteers for enduring the highly challenging dynamics of CALM Africa work. We eagerly look forward to 2012 of delivering more results in partnership with Children First Uganda, Local NGOs and local communities. CALM Africa relies on the vital technical and financial support of caring individuals, Foundations, Charities and Community Partners to sustain this important work. Our deepest gratitude to those who willingly offered their resources; finances, time, experiences, personal convenience and stories

William Shakespeare once said, “There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune, omitted all the voyage of their life is bound to be in shallows and in miseries. On such a full sea, are we now afloat, and we must take the current when it serves, or lose our ventures. The cost of missing the tide is too much to contemplate!” Ladies and gentlemen, I now invite you again to reflect on the challenges facing children in Africa to seek opportunities for shared commitment and act together for the common good of children of today and tomorrow. This is the work that drives CALM Africa; the enduring purpose to what we do; and the task the organization wants to take forward in 2012.

Thank you for reading this statement and Happy Blessed New Year, 2012

By James Kimera Ssekiwanuka, PhD
CALM Africa Team Leader/Director