CALM AFRICA END OF YEAR STATEMENT: 2014 UPDATES

1.0 Introduction

Dear Friends, partners, colleagues and well-wishers, for the last 5 years, I have endeavored to share with you CALM Africa yearly updates so that you are kept abreast of the developments which you have supported in different ways. The year 2014 is not very different from other past years but has had its unique challenges and achievements. We appreciate all those who worked and supported us in various ways. CALM Africa faced many challenges premising on limited resources. However some achievements have been registered due the continued support of Children First Uganda and other partners. We are happy that we have partners who continue to work with us to make a lasting legacy. I am made to understand that **Legacy** is sharing what you have learned, not just what you have earned, and bequeathing values over valuables. Leaving a legacy is therefore being grounded in offering yourself and making a meaningful, lasting and energizing contribution to humanity by serving a cause greater than your own. The legacy you live is the life you lead and therefore the legacy is the residue of a life well lived. Lao Tzu, a great philosopher once said ''If you know you have enough, you are wealthy; if you carry your intentions to completion, you are resolute; if you live a long and creative life, you will leave an eternal **legacy**''.

CALM Africa key achievements in 2014 include; the commencement of construction of teachers' houses at Jolly-Mercy Learning Centre, technical support to Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL) to come up with the National Guidelines on assisting victims of trafficking; organized three successful Foster Care workshops in Nangabo Sub county, run Toy Trust Project; received and installed a solar Wave Water Filter from Sweden; hosted **Infancia Group**of five from Spain and these came along with sports items for JMLC;organized a successful Child Protection Day together with a Children' Christmas Party at JMLC.The input, tremendous work, experience, ingenuity, commitment and reputation of our partners and well-wishers have been crucial in keeping CALM Africa relevant, afloat and steadfast to her mission. We owe a debt of gratitude to all those who have supported us in the year 2014.

2.0 Achievements and Developments in 2014:

2.1 Education and Training

- CALM Africa embarked on construction of teachers' houses to ensure the teachers stay near the school and become more effective in service delivery. Resources are being mobilized so that this can be completed in 2015.
- A computer Training Centre was revamped to ensure that teachers can easily learn computer skills and also opportunity to be offered to students during holiday time.
- Kiganda Education Centre was able to grow 4000 kilograms of maize on the road to food security for this particular school.

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

- Andrew Muwangi, an orphan from Rakai district received a University Sponsorship from one foreign family known to the Director (they asked not to be mentioned)
- Irene Nabacwa and Adam Kalisacompleted the second year of advanced Level and are sat for pre-university examination. Results shall be out by end of March, 2014.
- Five (5) children between 5 and 12 years at Nambogo Memorial Primary School
- 62 children have been sponsored in JMLC in 2014 and the number is likely to increase in 2014.

2.1.3 Career Guidanceand Internship:

- In 2014 CALM Africa staff visited Mityana Modern Secondary School, Kiganda Education Centre and Kitegombwa Primary school for career guidance and counseling; talking to them about child protection, and education success factors. Teachers in these schools were given opportunities to discuss the pro and cons of the philosopher of More Learning for Less Teaching techniques.

- **CALM Africa** received 29 students on internship from the following UniversitiesKyambogo University…10; Makerere University…6; Christian University Mukono…3; the University of Bugema SDA…5; York University…4 and Sweden…1; to do field work practicum/internship. During their placement with CALM Africa, they were attached to the Outreach program, Kasangati Health centreand JMLC for a period not exceeding 4 months.

2.1.4 Trainings:

- A total of 27 foster parents completed training in parenting skills, fostering and Child Protection.
- CALM Africa staffparticipated in the Government training workshops on fostering and alternative care strategies.
- CALM Africa trained JMLC support staff in First Aid training and child health.
- Child Protection training for upper primary children and teachers of JMLC

2.2 Community Outreach and Child Protection Issues

- Volunteers worked with CALM Africa (CA) staff to support vulnerable families with house cores including fetching water, improving on the sanitation and training family members on the value of living in a clean environment.
- Community outreach program: 54 families were assessed and 26 of them assisted with relief materials and food; while 10 Community Supporters received 10 bicycles to support vulnerable families and improve Child Protection mechanisms.

- Promoting the CALM Africa CHH Project:Supporting four CHH families with sufficient kits – Douglas Kisitu of Nangabo, Zalwango Joan of Kira, Ssenoga of Gitta, Rebecca Namutebi's family of Nalyamagonja.Supporting four CHH children into school (from Douglas' family).
- Support to 10 CHH families in Rakai.
- Promoting the CALM Africa Foster Care Program:CALM Africa made a presentation on Community Fostering. The workshop was organised by Alternative Care Network Uganda and Funded by SFAC.
- CALM Africa made another presentation in the Better Care Network workshop at Grand Imperial Hotel. The presentation was about the CALM Africa Community Fostering and it was organised by the Ministry of Gender and Better Care Network.
- The CALM Africa successful organized a Community Fostering workshop with the foster families in Nangabo and a few in from Kira.CALM Africa joins the SAFE CAMPAIGN, geared promoting safer alternative care systems.
- Louisa and Sherry gave support to CALM Africa mobile clinic project.
- CALM Africa attended child protection workshops organised by UYDEL
- CALM Africa revamped the vocational section, offering computer training to the out of school youths and JMLC teachers

2.3 Construction

- CA embarked on the construction of teachers' houses just a stone's throw distance from the school. The teachers' quarter shall accommodate a total of 10 teachers comfortably. This construction work was initially supported byLufbra students through fundraisings and actively getting involved in the construction work. Other friends of CALM have also supported the construction work and by this date the construction work has reached the bean level. More support is still needed to ensure the construction work is completed in the coming year so that the teachers are housed in a school permanent premise.

At foundation

At beam level

2.**4Volunteering:**

Volunteering still remains an important aspect of CALM Africa. We encourage people to offer their skills, experience and passion into what we are doing out of one's free will often without being paid. In 2014, we received a total of 36volunteers from Uganda, England, Scotland, Holland, Australia, Canada, United States of America and Sweden.

- The United Kingdom……..18

- Lujbra/UK (students who helped to kick start the construction of the teachers' house…namely Josh Turner, Jason Shaw, George Hone and Katie Clements…4
- Spain; the Infancia Group led by Martin Brown

The volunteers above participated in the following areas: teaching at JMLC; Sponsorship; career guidance in schools; Supported the school games with purchase of some sports items; Procured teaching aids/text books for the school ; Construction works at the teachers Quarters at Jolly Mercy Learning Centre; outreach program and mobile clinic.

The UK Volunteers bidding farewell To pupils of JMLC

Volunteers from Spain donating books to JMLC

CALM Africa moved from the previous volunteers' house to a more family based accommodation where by volunteers will stay close to an African family and experience what it feels to interact with Ugandans at a family level setting. Security is greatly improved and costs of maintaining the house even in times when volunteers are not around are cut down.

2.5 Net Working:

- **Makerere University** continued sending Social Worker Students to CALM Africa for field work practicum and organizes child protection trainings where CALM Africa staff are invited to facilitate.

- **Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL).** CALM Africa has been in partnership with this organization for quite some time. In 2014 we worked together to produce National Guidelines on Assisting child victims of human trafficking.
- **Afunaduula Development Foundation** teamed up with CA to find our more appropriate strategies to sensitize communities on environmental issues. This is on-going.

3.0 Audit

This year CALM Africa and Jolly Mercy Learning Centre have had their books of accounts audited in December and reports will be out by the month of January. The certified auditors called KGS carried out the task.

4.0Toy Trust/Outreach work including

Over 70% of CALM Africa outreach work was funded by Toy Trust, the UK based Charity. Two main villages/slums were targeted, namely Ggita and Nabutaka. Activities carried out included the following;-

-Buying and supplying sufficient Kits to vulnerable families-mattresses, blankets, jerricans

-Buying food and supporting vulnerable families with food

-Provision of bicycles to community supporters in the communities of CALM Africa

-Offering medical support to very vulnerable people.

-Offering education to 10 children in the jolly mercy learning centre for a period of 1 complete year

The details of all the outreach work will be shown in the report from the senior field's officer.

Items on Arrival *Distribution of items*

Bicycle distribution

5.0 Children's Party and Child Protection Day

This year saw the celebration of the children's party at JMLCand speeches about Child Protection where a total of over 800 people were in attendance. Support towards the party was given by friends of CALM through Children First Uganda Donations.

Gifts to children were offered with support from Louisa Hinns and family and every child received a gift during the occasion

Performance at the party

6.0 FinancialContributions to CALM Africa 2014:

SOURCES OF FUND IN 2014	UGHS	£
1. Partners' in development (Volunteers)	13,603,000	3,400.75
2. Children First Uganda (CFU)	105,229,600	26,307.40
3. Real gap Experience	5,390,000	1,347.50
4. INFANCIA	8,669,492	2,167.37
TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED	**132,892,092**	**£33,223.02**

Cash and Bank balances by the end of December 2014 are as follows;

-Cash at hand ---------- 103,400/=
-Barclay's bank---------- 4,846,064/=
-Stanbic bank ---------- 727554/=
-Equity bank---------- 421,750/=
TOTAL **6,098,768/= (£1,524.7)**

Note:-The pound sterling has been Valued at 4,000 Uganda Shillings

7.0 Challenges and Opportunities

1. It is still a struggle to regularly pay CALM Africa staff. As a result CALM activities have in a way been scaled down and since some members have had to work on a part-time basis due to the limited resources. The challenge here is to mobilise enough money to ensure that staff are paid regularly and on time.

2.In Uganda, unemployment among the youth is already at unmanageable proportions. According to Uganda Bureau of Statistics and Ministry of Planning; "the unemployment rate for young people ages 15–24 is 83%. This rate is even higher for those who have formal degrees and live in the urban area". This is due to the disconnection between the education achieved and the vocational skills needed for the jobs that are in demand for workers.Youth unemployment poses a serious political, economic, and social challenge to the country and its leadership. The cycle is making it increasingly difficult for Uganda to break out of poverty. CA has strategies of equipping young people with skills and knowledge to fight unemployment. The missing link is therefore funding to finance CA strategies of empowering young people to take charge of their destiny.

3. Over 18%of Ugandan population (according to the recent population census, Uganda population is at 34 million people) does experience food insecurity according to the ministry of agriculture. This is due to the declining or depleted food stocks, effects of the on-going dry spell that has reduced crop yields, and crop diseases especially cassava mosaic and brown streak diseases, banana bacterial wilt and maize stalk borer disease which have reduced crop production. There has also been a reduction in livestock products especially milk due to effects of the dry spell on pastures and water. A rise in food prices especially maize and beans is expected by in 2014. Food insecurity problem weighs heavily on vulnerable families and resultantly to children. CA has a big role to play to bring about food security among vulnerable and marginalized families.

4. Major environmental problems in Uganda include overgrazing, deforestation, and primitive agricultural methods, all of which lead to soil erosion. Attempts at controlling the propagation of tsetse flies have involved the use of hazardous chemicals. The nation's water supply is threatened by toxic industrial pollutants; mercury from mining activity is also found in the water supply. Uganda has 39 cu km of renewable water resources with 60% used for farming and 8% used for industrial activity. This is the very reason why CALM Africa teamed with Afunaduula Development Foundation to come up with clearer strategies to preserve the environment and let there be ecological balance for the sake of the present children and future generations.

5. Education is still a big challenge in Uganda; despite the government's policy on Universal Education, many children who enroll for primary education, less than 40% are able to continue with secondary education and very few are able to go for the tertiary education. In this regard CA set up three schools to offer quality education, focus on child protection policies and support children reach their full potential. Though little has been done by CA, a legacy is being created and these endeavours need to be supported.

6. In CALM Africa's area of operation, child poverty is quite endemic. Children living in poverty undoubtedly become adults living in poverty. To break this circle, children must be provided with the appropriate food security, shelter, healthcare, education, public services and with a voice in community; things which CALM Africa grapples with. Reducing child poverty recognizes children's rights to survive, develop, participate and be protected." Every child deserves a good start in life". This very legal right is still far from being fulfilled.CALM Africa needs support to continue with its mandate and contribute to child well-being by fighting child poverty.

7. TheMillennium Development Goals (MDGs) set standards and do reflect human rights as well as implications to child protection. In the same vein, CALM Africa realizes that MDGs cannot be achieved if failures to protect children are not addressed. Examples; while MDG 1 is about poverty eradication, child labour on the other hand squander a natural human capital and conflicts with the goal. Similarly, sexual exploitation and abuse hamper efforts to combat HIV/AIDS as it is in MDG 6. Environmental sustainability which is MDG 7 is still difficult to achieve in Uganda since many trees are cut down to provide fuel for cooking and a third of the growing urban population live in slum conditions. Overall protection of children requires close cooperation between different partners which constitutes the need for a global partnership for development as embedded in MDG 8. This goal can only be attained if more foreign volunteers come to Uganda, the world accepts fair trade, stability of regional politics and intensified network.

8.0 Plans for 2015:

Strategic Direction:CALM Africa Vision Statement is seeing that the rights of children, as defined by the UN Convention 1990, are promoted, protected and observed in Africa. These rights form a basis on which children are able to shape their own future, live their full potential and participate in development of their communities. And CALM **Africa Mission Statement**is working different stakeholders to pragmatically promote the rights and protection of children and young people in order to meet immediate needs and ensure lasting changes leading to successful and productive lives.

CALM Africa Overall Goalon the other hand is improved welfare of and accessibility education by children especially those that are disadvantaged and vulnerable as well as empowering young people to live their full potential. This is done by effectively promoting the observance of Children's Rights, the provision of life sustaining skills and the creation of structures that offer an enabling environment for Child protection and Development.

Strategic Priorities

1. Awareness Creation on Children's Rights
2. Education and Training
3. Family Support Relief
4. Resource Mobilization and Partnership Building
5. Capacity Building and Income Generating Projects
6. Environmental Protection and Food Security
7. Entrepreneurship Development

Specific Plans for 2015:

Promotion of the Observance of the Rights of the Child

- To continue with campaigns on the rights of a child and work in partnership with Civic organizations to promote children's rights.

Provide support to vulnerable families and children

- Provide counseling, relief items, education and economic supportto vulnerable families.

Provide Quality Education to Vulnerable Children and Young People

- To continue providing quality education and sponsorship support to vulnerable children
- Invest in professional development for teaching staff at the CALM Schools.

Enterprise skills Development: Trainings young people in enterprise skills and supportself-help groups of young people to improve household income

Mobilize resources to meet the objectives of CALM Africa: Write proposals and actively pursue partnership.

9.0 Acknowledgement

We appreciate all those who have contributed to the success of CALM Africa. It is because of our partners that we have been able to continue doing our mandate and ensure that vulnerable children are supported. Partners have helped CALM Africa to stay steadfast and raise some pillars of sustainability. Yes this is the ability to function and survive for a long time without necessarily over focusing and over depending on external support. In 2014, CALM Africa made 10 years (a decade) as a registered National NGO in Uganda offering services to children especially the most vulnerable and marginalized ones.