



"Every child matters"

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



Contents

Message from the Executive Director	1
About Angel's Centre for Children with Special Needs	2
Areas of work	3
Early learning for children with special needs	5
Parents' engagement	7
Out Patient Program	8
Workforce development	9
Supporting caregivers with practical skills in rehabilitation and parenting	12
COVID-19 food relief package	14
Christmas Party	15
Staff capacity building in community based rehabilitation	17
Financial report	18
Plans for 2021	19
Our partners	20

Message from the Executive Director



Rosemary Nambooze

Executive Director

Signature:

On Behalf of Angel's Center secretariat, we would like to present to you our 2020 annual report. This has been a year of a difference due to COVID- 19 prevalence, we have learnt to adapt and included a community based approach in addition to our centre based implementation strategy. We would like to appreciate the continued support from our partners, that enabled us to achieve the following;

- 01 Angel's center shifted to their new located in Banda- Bulabakulu Wakiso district.
- 02 We did the final finishing of plastering, installing electricity & water in the building.
- 03 We supported 150 families with relief food support
- 04 Over 55 children attended the out-patience department services that provided integrated therapy and early learning.
- 05 Held parents consultative meeting to plan for appropriate service delivery for all our children
- 06 Conducted a CBR strategic planning meeting
- 07 Conducted the refresher training for workforce development for persons with Down syndrome
- 08 We held a Christmas party for the families and children with special needs in partnership with the Ruparelia foundation.
- 09 We continued to fundraise and contacted different partners for support

About Angel's Centre for Children with Special Needs

Angel's Center for Children with Special Needs is non-government organization with Registration Number S.5914/12226. It's a center for children with special needs that was founded in 2012 with the aim of reaching out to children with mental disabilities through training, equipping and rehabilitation to be able to support them in their physical, emotional and cognitive development to reach their potential goals in life. In October, 2012, ACCSN was registered with Wakiso district to operate as a Community Based Organization (CBO) with a registration number WCBO/113/12 to provide a range of services for children with special needs. We strive to ensure that parents are supported in copying with raising children with special needs, through psychosocial support and community based rehabilitation.

Vision: A society which integrates children with Special Needs to fully realize their potentials.

Mission: To be a voice and to break the silence of disability in communities, through increasing access to information and service delivery.

We need to give disability a "human face" despite the challenge these children remain beautiful, lovely and important to the social network of society.

Core Values

Our values are geared towards creating hope for both parents and children with special needs through providing: love, guidance, counseling, attention and care.

Objectives

- To create awareness about the importance and potential success of stimulating disabled children in their development.
- To support parents with counseling and guidance in order to help their children in daily care and development.
- To provide training and capacity building to parents by professional therapists in order to be able to consciously assist their children and other parents in stimulating mental and physical development.
- To break the social stigma attached to disability through building strong families that are resilient to bad cultural norms and values related to disability.
- To provide hope in disabled children through making them more independent in managing activities of daily living and modified behavior to give disability a "human face".

Areas of work

ACCSN undertakes integrated technical activities in its program approach including Early learning for children with special needs, Provision of occupational, Speech & language therapy and Physiotherapy, Counselling & guidance for parents & guardians, Access to health care & nutrition, Income generation to households, Inclusive education and Community Based Rehabilitation

The report provides an account of activities conducted in 2020.

Completing the building project

We are happy to inform you that we were finally able to achieve our long time dream of having our own fully furnished facility, "CENTER OF EXCELENCE" that can accommodate at least 200 children with special needs. In July 2020 we moved from our former rented premises in Nansana municipality to a place we call home in Bulabakulu-Banda parish Wakiso district. The new facility has a number of rooms, among them are 3 therapy rooms, 4 class rooms, a sick bay, a social workers' office, a Director's office, a board room, a bigger reception with a kids corner, a dinning/ common room, inside



In the pictures above is one of the classrooms and one of the therapy rooms.



washrooms for both the children and the adults, an inside kitchen/staff cafeteria and 3 sleeping rooms for the weekly boarding program.

Moving to our own home has enabled us cost cut in terms of paying rent which we have done for the last 7 years. With this new facility we will be able to extend our services to at least a bigger number of children with special needs which has been limited due to us operating in smaller premises.

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has helped us achieve this dream both locally and internationally. Special thanks go to our very own Mr. Josh Redmond one of the directors of ACCSN that was leading the fundraising campaign for the building project.



Part of the reception area and the corridor



The outside view of the new Angel's center.

Early learning for children with special needs



Children learning using television and radio at the centre.

Angels' centre supported over 55 children in early learning and integrated therapy to equip them with basic literacy skills, interpersonal skills as well as Speech and language.

Cerebral Palsy Africa supported us with the installation of power supply and plumbing system for the early learning centre. Installation of the system has enabled smooth running of equipment used for the early learning centre such as televisions, speakers for visual learning, edutainment and dance classes.

The plumbing has enabled timely access to water for the kitchen, toilets and bathrooms leading to improved hygiene among the children and the entire facility. In addition, children and caretakers have clean water for drinking.



Tank installed to provide water at the centre



Tamale- beneficiary at ACCSN washing his hands at one of the sinks.

The routine learning sessions were however interrupted by COVID-19 restrictions and parents were not able to bring their children to the center for early learning and integrated therapy services for close to 4 months.

Parents' engagement



Participants during the parents' meeting at ACCSN



To strengthen our early learning and therapy services, we conducted a one day parents' consultative meeting of 30 parents and local leaders. This meeting provided space for parents to share views on how early learning for special needs children could best be implemented. Through the meeting, parents also shared their experiences on coping during the COVID-19 lock down and effective supportive mechanisms. It was from this meeting that we decided together with the parents to put in place the weekly boarding school program and the out of patient program.

Out Patient Program



Therapist supporting a parent and child during the OPD at Angels' Centre



Therapist working with a child during the OPD sessions at Angels' Centre

We put in place an outpatient program to further increase access to physio and psychotherapy among children and parents. This was conducted on a weekly basis where each child and parent received specialized attention for at least two hours. Over 40 children were able to benefit from this program. With the help of the OPD, physical changes were observed among the children including reduced effects like contractures, malnutrition as well as behavioral change such as improved speech and performance of tasks. Moreover, parents were supported through counselling to cope with the overwhelming financial difficulties and emotional distress aggravated during the lockdown period.

Workforce development



Shadati learning how to garden. Such skills also enhanced their physical and mental health.



Derrick in a practical session of introducing himself in official spaces



Global Livingstone Institute (GLI) and Global Down Syndrome Foundation partnered with Angel's Centre for Children with Special needs (ACCSN) to provide a refresher training in workforce development for 15 young adults with Down syndrome to prepare them for the employment world and seek placements for the trainees in different work places with focus on schools, hotels and restaurants. The capacity building exercise also involved supervision and mentorship.

The 15 participants were equipped with knowledge and skills in hospitality and office practices, interpersonal skills. In addition, they got more practical skills in activities of daily living (ADLs) and Instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) such as moving around in the community, handling money, using mobile phones and kitchen equipment safely. They further practiced home skills such as house work such as laundry and bed making, cleaning dishes as well as managing medications and first kit.

◀ *Participant planting during the practical gardening session.*



Tamale learning how to take care of poultry i.e. cleaning, picking eggs and feeding the birds

“I can now use the mobile phone to call my mother and family whenever I need help. After the training, my mother got for me a small phone to ease my communication. I was able to get the skills on how to use it,” Derrick, 30 years.

“I am more confident to move by myself to buy items at the shop. I am also able to count money and know amounts. I am really grateful for the trainings,” Tamale 22 years old.

“Through the training in gardening, I can now help my family dig around the flower garden and kitchen gardens. This makes me feel good and happy,” Shadati 21 years.

“My son Derrick can now support in picking out eggs for sale and home consumption from the poultry farm. I see how he greatly enjoys this activity and it keeps him engaged. I pay him a small amount of Ugx 5,000 per week to enable him meet some his needs as a person with a level of independence,” Nuriate mother of 21-year-old Richard.

“Since the training in the practice of brushing teeth, my daughter is now more diligent in keeping her oral hygiene. Before the training, I used to sometimes remind her of brushing her teeth but now she does it more consistently. I hope they can get more trainings and more frequently to enable them be more independent,” Irene, mother of 23-year old Molly.



Participants learning how to wash their hands perfectly. This skill is key to enhancing hygiene especially for COVID-19 prevention and other hygiene related diseases.

Furthermore, we held engagement meetings with three employers for persons with Down syndrome on the importance of workforce development and providing internship, volunteer and employment spaces for them. Two of the employers provided employment spaces for two young adults to assist in office management and being messengers.



Supporting caregivers with practical skills in rehabilitation and parenting

Cerebral Palsy Africa partnered with Angel's Centre for Children with Special needs (ACCSN) to provide home based care for 71 children with special needs in response to the effects brought about by the COVID-19 novel virus. The project aimed at increasing access to integrated therapy services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language, equipping 70 parents in offering home based therapy

services to ensure continuity of children receiving services in their homes as well as improve the early learning by ensuring access to water, hygiene and lighting system. Moreover, ACCSN purchased personal protective gear including overalls, masks, gloves, sanitizers for the 10 project staff and care workers to avoid the spread of COVID-19 especially to the vulnerable children.

70 caregivers were provided with knowledge and skills in rehabilitation for their children by 3 professional therapists and 3 counselors. Rehabilitation trainings included Mental stimulation, Therapeutic play activities, mobility and transfer training, Vestibular & sensorimotor stimulation and behavioral modification during home visits. At least 2-3 homes were reached in a day.

The trainings were practical to enable them administer routine exercises for their children. Caregivers were trained in hygiene activities of daily living training (bathing, dressing up, washing, brushing teeth), social skills training (interactive play, group play activities etc.).

The social skills training came in handy for siblings and other family members. The trainings enabled caregivers to understand better ways of handling their children while performing self-care routines, in ways that are safer and more comfortable for both the child and caregiver. The trainings were conducted during the home visits and were suited to the child and family need.



Therapists showing caregivers and siblings simple physio therapy skills for the children.



Children and caregivers were equipped with life skills of Instrumental Activities of Daily Living” i.e. actions that were important to independent living but are not necessarily required activities on a daily basis. These were needed for a greater degree of independence for instance moving by one’s self in community, handling money.

Noeline is one of the caregivers who appreciates this training. She is able to exercise her daughter’s limbs, do play therapy and properly feed her. This process is helping her bond with her child unlike before. She expresses that it is a two-way therapy for them. Her older child is also involved and in a way it is helping her play and bond with her sibling. Such support has been possible for her through this home based care provided in this project.

Since the COVID-19 travel restrictions, Salma had not been able to attend to Betty’s therapy at Angel’s Centre for four months March 2020. This had compromised Betty’s health; she developed contractures, started drooling, lost appetite and got insomnia. Through provision of home based therapy, the secondary disabilities, Betty has gained more appetite and sleeps more peacefully. The home based cared through this project made this possible. As told by Charles Suuna therapist ACCSN.

COVID-19 food relief package



Parents and their children receiving food packages

ACCSN provided nutritious and balanced diet foods to over 150 families raising children with special needs to respond the constraints brought by COVID-19. The family relief packages contained food items like rice, maize flour, and sugar, washing soap, beans, salt, millet flour, groundnuts, cooking oil and powdered milk.

The relief package was also an opportunity to reduce malnutrition cases as well as provide psycho-social support to 150 families to support them through the COVID-19 crisis. Psycho-social support was through counseling and experience sharing. The parent support initiative was key in providing counselling.

Christmas party



Children playing during the party

Despite the challenges and uncertainties of 2020, just like our culture has always been, the year was crowned with a Christmas party for the children in partnership with the Rupareria Foundation. It was a day filled with a lot of fun, play, eats and drinks. Over 100 families and children with special needs attended and every child went back home with a gift hamper from the Rupareria Foundation.

What a way to wrap up the year! The purpose of the Christmas party was to celebrate with our families especially those that cannot afford a Christmas celebration in their homes to also have that amazing feel and for the children to remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ irrespective of the situation and conditions they are going through.



Parents and children enjoying a meal



Abryl celebrating his birthday during the party



Emma receiving the gift hamper



Adrian inspiring parents through his music.

Staff capacity building in community based rehabilitation

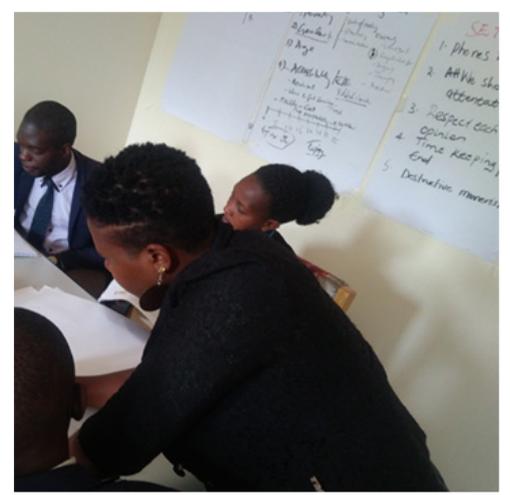
To further strengthen our community based programming, 17 participants from Angel's Centre were supported by Cerebral Palsy to develop a Community Based Rehabilitation Strategy. The training was aimed at building the capacity of Angel's Center to develop, implement and monitor a Community Based Rehabilitation Strategy that was relevant to the needs and opportunities available in the community. The participants got more in understanding disability in Uganda, CBR matrix, importance of the International Classification of functional for disability and health to implement disability programs in a harmonized way and situation analysis and mapping of community resources. As a result, Angels' centre drew a CBR strategy.



Participants doing group work during the training

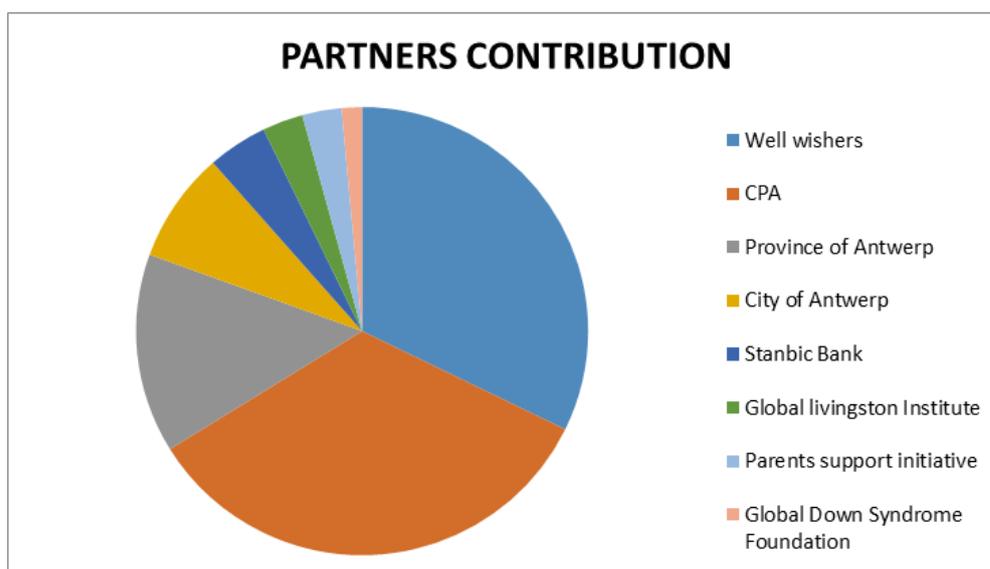


Participants during group discussions



Financial report

Description	2020	2019
Assets		
Non-current Assets		
Property and Equipment	494,987,500	482,504,100
Current Assets		
Trade and other receivables		
Cash and cash equivalents	37,120,368	1,871,500
Total Assets	532,107,868	484,375,600
Equity and Liabilities		
Equity		
Accumulated fund	12,483,400	12,483,400
Accumulated surplus	38,991,868	1,871,500
Total Equity	51,475,268	14,354,900
Liabilities		
Non-current liabilities		
Deferred income	-	-
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	213,282,465	448,641,000
Total equity and liabilities	264,757,733	462,995,900



Plans for 2021

- Enhance capacity of caregivers to create a conducive environment for children with special needs.
- Empower adults with special needs with knowledge and skills for employment.
- Equip the centre of excellence for inclusive classes and physiotherapy.
- Engage in joint advocacy initiatives at local and international levels for inclusive social services for children with special needs.

Other Pictures



Our partners





"Every child matters"

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