

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



DROPLETS IN A STREAM

"Every dollar you've donated, every message you've sent, every prayer you've offered has helped desperate children and their communities. You've let them know they weren't alone during this crazy year. You've given them perhaps the greatest gift... hope."

Andrew Stewart, Director



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From the heart

I think we can all agree, 2020 was a year of unexpected and unique experiences for everyone, and it was the same for us at Droplets in A Stream (DIAS).

With COVID-19 and all that came with the pandemic, DIAS faced so many new challenges. While the threats could have halted our work, it instead transformed the way we helped our Partners. The challenges we faced and overcame, I believe, have made us better prepared for the future and they will undoubtedly underpin DIAS for greater effectiveness for generations to come.

Due to restrictions, this was the first year our team was unable to travel to Uganda and Kenya and liaise with our Partners in-person. Therefore, it became essential to increase our communication via web-based video and telephone. This kept our team up-to-date with the evolving situation, and helped us mentor and lead our Partners during the crisis.

Due to national lockdowns lasting several months to delay the spread of the virus, case numbers in both Uganda and Kenya were quite

low in the earlier months of 2020. However, this strategy has brought severe challenges as money for most is earned on a day-to-day basis. Malnutrition, even starvation, has occurred. All our Partners witnessed a dramatic increase in domestic violence, suicides, police brutality and depression during the extensive community lockdown and school closures.

The unexpected circumstances meant DIAS had to use additional funds to meet emergency needs. But thankfully, our amazing supporters (like you), donated when our Partners needed it most.

The DIAS team are humbled and so thankful for you. Your generous and ongoing assistance is vital – without you, nothing can be done!

While this is only a short summary of the unusual year that has passed, rest assured, that every dollar you have donated has been deployed to physically help desperate children, adults and communities. You've let them know they are not alone and have given them the greatest gift... hope.

Andrew Stewart, Director



4 partners. 4 communities. Thousands of lives reached.

KYAMPISI, UGANDA

Peter & Joeline

Kyampisi Childcare Ministries (KCM) is a centre of education, rescue, care and respite. It runs a school for 500+ children; Weema Clinic; a church; and St Paul's Rehabilitation Centre that cares for children suffering from abuse, mental trauma or physical injuries.

KISUMU, KENYA

Frank & Lindah

The Milele Centre is a hub of support for vulnerable people in Kisumu. It has become a friendly, welcome Centre, where it hosts programs, houses a community farm, kick-starts microenterprise businesses, and will soon open a house for abandoned children and young mothers.

BUNGOMA, KENYA

Joseph & Cate

Restoration of Hope Ministries International (ROHMI) cares for street boys. For many, they've either been orphaned, abused, or extreme poverty has left them no other option. But in every case, street life is never by choice because the conditions are horrendous.

NATEETE, UGANDA

Haggai & Agnes

Bridge Christian Ministries (BCM) is based in Nateete, a forgotten slum in Kampala. It is filled with children who roam the streets while their parents are out looking for work in the day. BCM gives these children an education, food and clothing.



650

CHILDREN GIVEN AN
EDUCATION THROUGH
FORMAL SCHOOL



1221

PATIENTS SEEN AT WEEMA
CLINIC (KYAMPISI) IN ITS
FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION



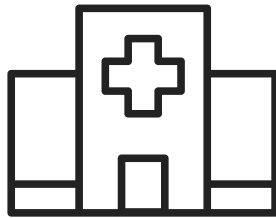
120

TEENAGERS IN KISUMU
RECEIVED HYGIENE &
STATIONERY PACKS



372

FAMILIES GIVEN HYGIENE AND
FOOD PACKS DURING THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC



157

STREET BOYS TREATED AT THE
DROP IN CENTRE IN
BUNGOMA



15

STREET BOYS IN BUNGOMA
NOW ABLE TO RENT THEIR
OWN HOUSES



20

CHILDREN CARED FOR AT ST
PAUL'S REHABILITATION
CENTRE IN KYAMPISI



17

FAMILIES AFFECTED BY CHILD
SACRIFICE HAVE BEEN
SUPPORTED IN KYAMPISI



330

STREET BOYS IN
BUNGOMA ARE FED A
HEALTHY MEAL DAILY

Bungoma, Kenya



2020 highlights

- 30 boys housed in ROHMI Home & attended school
- 330 street boys are fed daily
- 22 street boys given bicycles to operate as taxis
- 26 street boys given trolleys to operate as baggage movers
- 1 street boy given a donkey and cart to operate as a baggage mover and garbage collector
- 18 boys were reunited with their families
- 157 boys were treated for various medical conditions at the Drop In Centre
- 15 street boys have earned enough money to now rent their own houses

Your impact

COVID-19 RESPONSE

2020 was a tough year for ROHMI and its leaders, particularly in how it supported street children during the national lockdown. They were unable to isolate, social distance or maintain clean hygiene practices because their means of protection and self-defence, particularly at night, is to sleep close together in whatever shelters they can find. They faced a lot of harassment from locals and the police for doing so, and as was inevitable, some of them contracted the virus. Thankfully, ROHMI was able to fight for the street boys' safety and the boys have all recovered well.

DROP-IN CENTRE

ROHMI's new Drop-In Centre had only been open for a few weeks before the COVID-19 outbreak. While initially established to assist sick or injured boys living on the streets, it served a far greater purpose during lockdown for the homeless boys, who were subjected to police brutality due to the curfew laws being physically enforced. There were 157 children who passed through the centre over the year and were treated for cuts, abrasions, malaria, typhoid, ulcers, boils, influenza, COVID-19, rashes and broken bones. Many received a meal, an opportunity to wash, and in some cases, received new clothes and bedding. At one stage in the year, the centre was used as a quarantine centre.

EDUCATION

ROHMI houses 30 school-aged boys, and during lockdown, teachers came to the home to continue classes as often as possible. Strict precautions were implemented to ensure all children, staff and teachers remained safe. Thankfully, schools reopened in January 2021.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Each year a Christmas celebration is arranged, and this year, a COVID-safe event was organised. The boys from ROHMI Home played a soccer match against the street boys. Soccer is very popular in Africa and also breaks down barriers between strangers, instils discipline and leadership, and builds relationships. These matches are a social highlight for all of the boys, and also highlight those with exceptional skills.

From street boy to Kenyan soccer star

When Jack's* parents died, he soon discovered there was no one else in his village able or willing to take care of him. And so his life of desperate survival on the streets began. He would pick through the village dumping sites and garbage piles, scavenging for scraps of food and leftovers.

After eventually making it to Bungoma, he joined a group of other street boys. They told him there was a man in town named Joseph who was kind and caring, and he could provide him with food and maybe even help him attend school. Jack's greatest desire was to go to school because he knew that was the way to get a job, a house and opportunity.

After meeting with Jack, Joseph realised the boy wanted to change his life around and was

willing to work hard to do so. He brought him into the ROHMI Home, where he lived together with 29 boys, and enrolled him in school.

Today, Jack is one of the best performing boys in the school. He was also awarded the best soccer player in his age group in 2019 was selected to join the Under 17 Kenyan National Soccer Team last year.

Jack is going places because someone believed in him, someone gave him an opportunity, and someone unlocked that ability in him. His future is filled with hope and that's because of you. Thank you!

**Name has been changed.*



Kyampisi, Uganda



2020 highlights

- 515 enrolled students before pandemic
- 515 fed daily before lockdown
- 1,221 patients seen at Weema Clinic
- More than 100 children helped through home schooling during school lockdown
- 20 currently in care at St Paul's Rehabilitation Centre, while 15 remain waiting to return on the re-opening of schools
- Involved in 17 cases of child sacrifice (3 survivors, 14 deaths)
- 15 staff tested positive for COVID-19, all have recovered

Your impact

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Very early on in the pandemic, KCM spearheaded a push to provide hand-washing stations throughout the village, and encouraged social distancing and mask wearing. The team also delivered food to vulnerable families during the extensive lockdown, which lasted months. [Click here](#) to view a video of KCM's response during 2020.

WEEMA CLINIC

Weema celebrated its one-year anniversary in 2020 and now employs five staff members. Weema delivered its first baby in August 2020, and throughout the year, provided antenatal and post-natal care to young mothers and their babies. Two Australian doctors – Dr Paula Kearns and Dr Geoff Mitchell – conducted weekly online clinical meetings, discussing cases and providing support and advice. As well as routine clinical work, Weema conducted free community clinics, such as an eye health clinic. The clinic also runs 'Weema Sports', where it provides weekly sporting activities for Rock Hill School Students. Physical activity keeps their bodies healthy and improves mental health, focus, school performance, sleep and energy levels.

MARKET GARDEN PROJECT

During health checks on every child under KCM's care, it was discovered there were very high levels of iron deficient anaemia. This led to the market garden project, which now grows iron-rich vegetables for the kids in KCM's St Paul's Rehabilitation Centre. This will be continued annually and support normal physical and neurological development for these children.

SAVINGS GROUP

KCM is growing its group savings initiative, called 'Fena'. Fena gives locals access to credit and saving services to grow their businesses, plus provides entrepreneur and vocational skills training.

CHILD SACRIFICE WORK

Due to KCM's advocacy work, the new Prevention and Prohibition of Human Sacrifice Bill was recently introduced in the Ugandan Parliament. When passed, it will help reduce the incidences of child sacrifice in Uganda.



Child sacrifice: A family forever changed

**Their sibling died.
Their father went to prison.
Their mother struggled to feed them.**

These are such incredible hardships, but it's what Samantha, Samuel and Saul* have had endure.

In 2017, their father was imprisoned after sacrificing their eldest sibling, who was 9 years old at the time.

Their young mother, Elizabeth*, was left extremely traumatised after the attack and struggled to cope. Her husband was the sole provider for the family, so when he went to prison, she couldn't survive financially.

Elizabeth had no job and couldn't find any form of income. Her in-laws refused to support her because they blamed her for his imprisonment. And Elizabeth's family did not have the financial capacity to provide care and support to her and her three children.

In 2018, the family was referred to KCM for rehabilitation, including psycho-social education, counselling, medical care, general welfare support, education, economic empowerment and legal support to seek justice and prosecution of the crime committed against the family.

The family's life has changed dramatically with KCM's support!

Elizabeth, who had previously low education, is now completing her Primary 7 studies, and two of the three children went to school before the COVID-19 lockdown. Elizabeth dreams of a better future, and slowly, she's on the way to getting it.

With ongoing counselling, educational support and economic empowerment, she'll be able to build her capacity and skills to live a fully productive and self-sustainable life in the future. Thank you for making this possible!

**Name has been changed.*

Nateete, Uganda



2020 highlights

- 65 street children have been fed and 25 have been housed
- 12 former sex workers have been fed and housed, and are receiving training to gain entrepreneurial skills
- 72 families received food and hygiene supplies during lockdown
- Three home school education packages distributed to 105 students during lockdown

Your impact

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Despite the COVID-19 impacts and lengthy lockdown in Uganda, BCM continued running its activities in line with the government guidelines. BCM provided food and hygiene items to 72 families linked to BCM's New Seasons Nursery & Primary School. Each family received 5kg of maize flour, 5kg beans and 3 bars of soap. BCM also sent teams to support isolated families in their homes, especially those who were sick or struggling.

EDUCATION

New Seasons started the year with an extra 25 children entering into Grade 1, which brought enrolments up to 105 students. Despite going into lockdown in March, the teachers ran a home-schooling program, which included distributing printed school materials to all 105 students. Thanks to donations, the New Seasons team was able to create School Start-Up packs containing scholastic materials, in anticipation for school reopening in 2021.

REHABILITATING STREET CHILDREN

The Christmas party held in December 2019 ushered in a large group of ghetto/street children, which saw the creation of yet another outreach, now called the Turn Around Rehabilitation Centre (TARC). Twenty-three of these children have been relocated to Namungona Turn Around House, including girls who had been involved in commercial sex trade. The remaining 42 children left at Nateete are also being cared for with shelter and food. Rehabilitation initiatives for these children include mentorship; counselling and guidance; reading and writing; and entrepreneurship/vocational skills training.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

BCM gave school families a gift hamper, including food and household items, to celebrate Christmas in 2020. This was a much-needed gift because many of the parents and caretakers of the children lost their jobs and had nothing to eat on Christmas Day.

Former street children become entrepreneurs

Most of us are born into a world of options. We can study whatever we like, work in any field we want, and live wherever we like. We have the freedom to decide.

But for the women and children living in Nateete's slum, they have limited options. It's either starve or find any way to earn some money.

BCM is working with women and street children to give them options in life, so they can experience the freedom to decide.

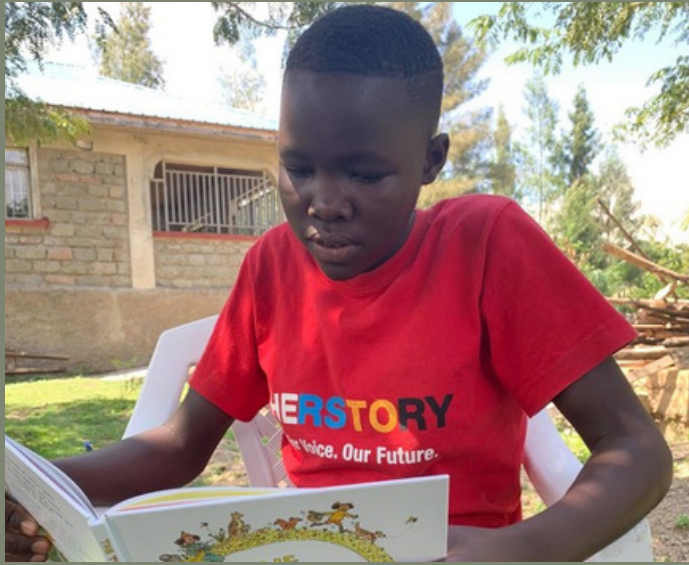
The team has created a rehabilitation initiative, called Turn Around Rehabilitation Centre, for former sex workers looking to leave the trade and street children who want to get off the streets.

They gain vocational and entrepreneurial skills to help give them a stable income, so they can learn to provide for themselves. These skills include how to make liquid soap and sell it; weaving doormats; catering; hairdressing; and perfume production.

With these new skills and the motivation that hope brings, these children now have a chance of earning a legitimate and sustainable income. Thanks to BCM's input, a life on the street begging for a handout has now been transformed into meaningful and safe employment.



Kisumu, Kenya



2020 highlights

- Christmas food and clothes given to more than 100 families
- Distributed hygiene and food packs to more than 300 families negatively impacted by COVID-19
- Created sanitation centres during pandemic
- Distributed hygiene and stationery packs to 120 teenagers and adolescents in anticipation for schools reopening in 2021
- Sourced an upgraded all-wheel drive, which has been vital to travel on roads that can be almost impassable when it rains.
- Early Childhood Centre nearing completion

Your impact

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Working alongside other community organisations, Frank and Lindah set up sanitation centres with education on how to keep safe. They distributed hygiene and food packs to more than 300 families negatively impacted by COVID-19. Micro Enterprises have been greatly affected during the outbreak, but Frank and Lindah have used their networks to get businesses up and running again.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE (ECD)

The ECD is nearing completion and will soon provide a safe place and loving family environment for neglected, abandoned and at-risk children. Once opened, it will have the capacity to care for 21 children under five years old. Milele has already chosen a staff member, Grace, who will initially care for the children. Grace is a foster mum who volunteers for an agency mentoring women and girls. In 2020, Milele partnered with Books for Africa and used the soon-to-be completed ECD to store more than 1,500 library books that were distributed to people in the region.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS/PACKS

Christmas was not forgotten for those suffering in the villages, and gifts of food and clothes were given to more than 100 families. Also, more than 120 teenagers received hygiene and stationery packs, in anticipation for schools reopening in 2021.

COUNSELLING TEENS

Teen pregnancies have increased during the pandemic. Frank and Lindah have been directly involved in helping troubled teens with life guidance and counselling.

The desperate bid to get her back in school

In early 2020, Anne* and her family escaped to a church after their small tin house was flooded. They carried all their belongings and sheltered in one of the rooms in the church, sharing it with other affected families. Anne's mother, Mary*, had been struggling to keep up with her weekly expenses by that time and her husband, a local boda boda (motorbike taxi) rider, spent all his income out in the pubs.

Even before their house was flooded, the family was struggling to survive the effects of poverty.

One day, Anne's dad approached a mentor at one of the Milele Centre's education clubs, worried about his daughter's whereabouts. Anne had been missing from their temporary shelter for a few days after telling them she was staying with someone else.

Milele had to act swiftly to track down Anne and counsel her. Thankfully, she was open and receptive to counselling, so the Milele team sent one of the mentors to be with her on a video chat, where she was able to disclose her concerns and discuss her situation.

Her mentor encouraged her that if she would honour her parents and complete high school, Milele would do all it could to support her through her tertiary education or the career path of her choice. She accepted this and the team is confident Anne will honour her word.

Her family is still struggling with poverty, but Anne has now been received back into school. She is one of the fortunate girls to narrowly escape being a teen mother statistic in 2020. Other girls have not been so fortunate.

Anne was one of 120 teenagers to receive 'Start Up' packs from Milele in anticipation for school returning in 2021.

The hygiene and stationery packs included stationery items, soap, toilet paper, lotion, deodorant and menstrual pads.

Many of the children come from very poor families where income has been lost or drastically reduced due to the restrictions imposed on them as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. They simply cannot afford school resources on top of school fees, so the children are very disadvantaged in their ability to learn and participate in school activities.

It is essential to include female hygiene items in the packs, because without them, girls often don't attend school when they get their period. It gives girls the confidence to focus on their studies and also keeps them from being trapped in a 'period poverty' cycle. Sometimes, girls receive hygiene products from men in their communities, but after a while, these men demand sex in exchange for the supplies.

Thank you for putting a stop to this for so many girls!

**Name has been changed*



Financials

	2020	2019
DONATIONS		
DONATIONS FOR OUR PARTNERSHIPS	627,617	658,276
DONATIONS FOR OPERATING EXPENSES	21,600	22,933
TOTAL DONATIONS	649,217	681,209
EXPENSES		
INVESTMENTS		
PARTNER SUPPORT	87,422	27,175
EDUCATION	48,490	24,545
MEDICAL & HEALTH	124,915	27,350
LEGAL SUPPORT	30,000	24,000
CHILD WELFARE SUPPORT	304,167	304,212
CAPITAL PROJECTS	48,100	254,235
OPERATING EXPENSES	20,278	18,542
TOTAL EXPENSES	663,372	680,059
CASH BALANCE	22,369	61,400

Notes:

*'Medical & Health' includes costs to support COVID and surgeries for children

*Capital projects includes the foundation for the new Rehabilitation Centre, Early Childhood Development Centre and Medical Clinic

*A more detailed financial report can be obtained by contacting the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission.

Want to find out more? Contact Us



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rodney Callanan
Andrew Stewart
Jennifer Barker
Phil Walker
Tiffany English

www.dias.asn.au
+61 434 833 172
info@dropletsinastream.com.au
PO Box 301, Hamilton Central
Qld, 4007

ABN: 97 148 001 410

