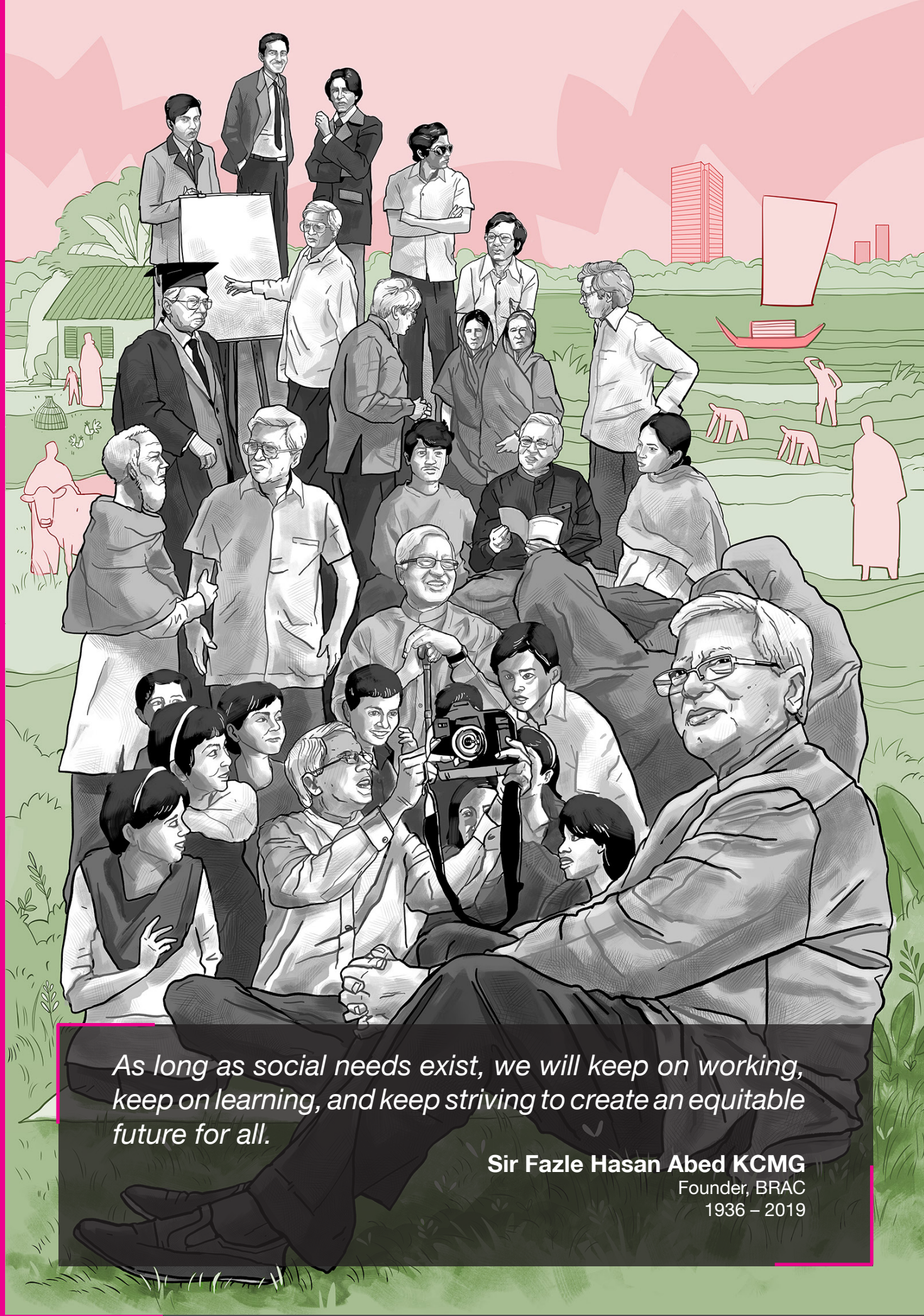




ANNUAL REPORT 2020

BRAC UGANDA





As long as social needs exist, we will keep on working, keep on learning, and keep striving to create an equitable future for all.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG
Founder, BRAC
1936 – 2019

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LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

As I write this letter, we continue to navigate through a global pandemic, climate crisis, social injustice, and more. While we began the year 2020 mourning the passing of our founder, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, we turned that loss into renewed commitment by building on the vision he left behind for us. Sir Fazle said, “We must strive to continuously find solutions to emerging and re-emerging social challenges. We must reach out to those in need”. At BRAC, we feel proud to continue carrying the baton that he handed over to us.

2020 was a year full of challenges and transitions for BRAC International. The COVID-19 pandemic affected the health and wellbeing of millions of people worldwide; it led to drastic loss of human lives and pushed people back into poverty. Many were unable to feed themselves, and children, especially girls, missed out on crucial years of schooling. However, CY 2020 was also a year full of opportunity and learning, from which we were able to renew our commitment to pursue BRAC’s global strategic vision, reach out to the people we work with and give them the hope that BRAC stands with them in and in-between crises, while ensuring the safety and health of our own staff and their families.

The pandemic upended the lives of the people whom we work with in 10 countries across Asia and Africa; as of December 2020, a total of 963,847 people tested COVID-positive in the countries we operate. Our teams on the ground were able to reach over 49 million people across two continents by delivering services and support, using recommended infection control measures, case management support, and socio-economic recovery interventions. We carried out these programme activities by partnering with governments, community leaders, and local and international NGOs. In addition, our team developed innovative approaches for programming,



DR MUHAMMAD MUSA
Executive Director
BRAC International



As we build on our work and learning of 2020, and continue our programmatic interventions in 2021, we remain committed to working with communities to rebuild and emerge stronger than before. We believe that those living in poverty and inequality are not only resilient but that they are able to take control of their own lives

collaborating, and mobilising resources that included the co-creation of strategies and proposals with our funding partners. We pursued social impact and outcome-based approaches, as well as partnerships with multilateral organisations including the United Nations. We also focused on strengthening our organisation based on past learnings, starting with our safeguarding policies, as well as programme design and quality.

CY 2020 also afforded us the opportunity to redouble our efforts and develop innovative solutions to deliver services to our programme participants:

- Through our radio-based Play Lab model in Uganda and Tanzania, we reached over 18,763,540 parents and caregivers to help support their children learn from home.
- Our Microfinance programme provided services to 654,845 clients, 96% of whom are women, as of December 2020.
- Our Health programme provided basic healthcare services to 4,789,590 people in vulnerable situations in Asia and Africa.
- BRAC’s Early Childhood Development model, non-formal Education programme, and Youth Empowerment interventions supported the growth and development of more than 601,826 children and youths.
- Through our Agriculture, Food Security and Livelihood programme, we provided direct assistance to over 22,035 farmers and their families, who in turn shared their knowledge with a larger number of their neighbours and peer farmers.

With the goal of expanding our reach and impact to those living in poverty, inequality and injustice, we engaged in several global-level initiatives. Our participation in the Global Commission on Adaptation enabled BRAC International to take a stronger role in advancing Locally Led Adaptation and promoting more sustainable and community based resilience-building to address Climate Change and its consequences. We joined coalitions working for Early Childhood Development to advance policies and mobilise resources in favor of positive childhood promotion. We also became members of Humanitarian forums to support cutting-edge innovations, discuss global trends, and unveil ground-breaking solutions to improve the lives of millions in need.

As we build on our work and learning of 2020, and continue our programmatic interventions in 2021, we remain committed to working with communities to rebuild and emerge stronger than before. We believe that those living in poverty and inequality are not only resilient but that they are able to take control of their own lives.

I take this opportunity to express heartfelt gratitude to our staff members who worked hard during this difficult period and managed family and home-struggles while reaching out to millions of people. I also thank our Supervisory Board for its guidance and support throughout the year.

On behalf of BRAC International, I wholeheartedly thank our funding partners, government counterparts, affiliates, and key stakeholders for supporting us as we stand beside the world’s most vulnerable people.

We remain committed to building a more equitable and inclusive world.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Like many organisations within the country and around the globe, BRAC Uganda faced an unprecedented challenge when COVID-19 landed at our doorstep. With the pandemic, a plethora of changes to how we live, work and conduct our businesses took centre stage.

Aligned to the BRAC International policies, the organisation took a stand that it saw necessary to maintain and sustain the staff in the face of this challenge and adversity. We neither laid off staff nor reduced their salaries. Our restructuring plan was focused on re-positioning for preparedness rather than cutting off the staff salary. BRAC Uganda also developed a business continuity plan. Quarantines and lockdowns became a way of life, forcing us to change the way we operate. Office staff, who were considered non-essential workers, began working from home while other country office staff (30-40) rose to the occasion. I greatly appreciate them for taking the challenge head on in the face of adversity. In-person meetings were severely constrained and replaced with collaboration tools (radio, leaflets, Zoom, and Google Meet) to boost the efficiency of virtual teams.

As a country office, we implemented several quick assessments to inform and develop our business continuity plan. The assessments examined the impact of the pandemic on household food security, livelihoods, and the coping strategy going forward. BRAC Uganda focused on supporting the government in implementing massive COVID-19 online training, sensitisation, and awareness sessions. We initially targeted our staff, the district stakeholders, and community health volunteers, directly reaching 14,750 direct programme participants and an additional 22 million with a light touch radio sensitisation. The highlight of this was the “Boda Boda Blitz”, which reached 2.2 million persons in the Wakiso district. Simultaneously, BRAC deepened our engagement with stakeholders with a view of making our footprint firmer at presidential, ministerial, national, and local district governments and the donors to support responses. The use of the One-BRAC model enabled us to continue the implementation. Digitisation helped deliver learning at home to scholars, while Boda Bodas were used to deliver essential drugs and health products to the community health promoters during the lockdown. Additionally, the 2,200 scholars received their stipends, household food rations, and seeds for agriculture.



GEORGE OWUOR
Country Director
BRAC Uganda

In 2020, we continued to improve our visibility, making moves that make news and thus establishing a strong image throughout the country while building staff capacity for sustainable implementation of development. Digitising payments through mobile money and distribution of Personal Protective Equipments to both staff and programme participants.

Even though we are already a year into the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic fallout reverberates in virtually all corners of the country. Although the impact continues to unfold, a few questions are put forward: Could BRAC Uganda have been better prepared? What lessons can be learned from this current state? Are there any opportunities that can be realised from this once-in-a-century global pandemic? Do the staff have the spine to bounce back from the shocks? My prayer is that we as a group as well as individuals will be better prepared than before.



ABOUT BRAC INTERNATIONAL

BRAC International operates in four countries in Asia (Afghanistan, Myanmar, Nepal, and the Philippines) and six countries in Africa (Liberia, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda). Our interventions aim to achieve large scale, positive changes through economic and social programmes that enable men and women to realise their potential. In each of the countries BRAC International operates in, the entities are legally registered with relevant authorities in compliance with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

BRAC International Holdings B.V. was set up as a private limited liability company under the laws of the Netherlands and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Stichting BRAC International. It is a socially responsible for profit organisation, engaging people in economic activities and creating sustainable income generating activities for themselves. It provides funding for social development programmes under Stichting BRAC International. The core focus of BRAC International Holdings

B.V. is to provide microfinance services to people who are financially constrained and marginalised, and people who do not have access to the financing facilities offered by banks and other non-bank financial institutions. Our social enterprise programme currently includes seed production and distribution in Uganda.

Our affiliates were founded in 2006 to raise our profile globally. They play a critical role in building awareness, developing new business plans, mobilising resources and maintaining effective partnership with institutional donors, foundations, NGOs, research organisations as well as the media. They collaborate with international counterparts to design and implement cost-effective and evidence-based poverty innovations worldwide.

BRAC USA is our North American affiliate based in New York.

BRAC UK is our UK-based affiliate in London.

BRAC ACROSS THE WORLD

UK
Initiated: 2006
An independent charity to raise profile and funds for BRAC globally

USA
Initiated: 2007
An independent charity to raise profile and funds for BRAC globally

SIERRA LEONE
Initiated: 2008
AFSL, YE, Health, EPRP, MF

RWANDA
Initiated: 2018
MF

LIBERIA
Initiated: 2008
AFSL, Education, YE, UPG, Health, MF

UGANDA
Initiated: 2006
AFSL, Education, ECD, YE, EPRP, Health, UPG-DI, MF

TANZANIA
Initiated: 2006
ECD, YE, WESOLVE, MF

SOUTH SUDAN
Initiated: 2007
AFSL

NETHERLANDS
Initiated: 2009
Stichting BRAC International registered as a foundation

AFGHANISTAN
Initiated: 2002
Education, Health, CCAP, CDP

BANGLADESH
Initiated: 1972
BEP, CC, CEP, GJD, HNPP, HRLS, IDP, MF, MG, SDP, SE, UDP, Uni, UPG, WASH, HCMP

PHILIPPINES
Initiated: 2012
Education, UPG

MYANMAR
Initiated: 2013
AFSL, EPRP, MF, FI

NEPAL
Initiated: 2015
YE, SDP, Health, AFSL

KENYA
Initiated: 2019
Africa Regional Office

AFSL: Agriculture, Food Security and Livelihood
BEP: BRAC Education Programme
CC: Climate Change
CCAP: Citizens' Charters Afghanistan Project
CEP: Community Empowerment Programme
CDP: Community Development Programme

ECD: Early Childhood Development
EPRP: Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme
FI: Financial Inclusion
GJD: Gender Justice and Diversity
HNPP: Health, Nutrition and Population Programme
HRLS: Human Resources and Legal Aid Services
HCMP: Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme

IDP: Integrated Development Programme
MG: Migration
MF: Microfinance
SE: Social Enterprises
SDP: Skills Development Programme
UDP: Urban Development Programme

Uni: University
WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
UPG: Ultra Poor Graduation
UPG-DI: Ultra Poor Graduation-Disability Inclusive
WE SOLVE: Women Entrepreneurship through Solar Value chain for Economic Development
YE: Youth Empowerment

BRAC INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDING ACHIEVEMENTS 2020

Safeguarding practices were initiated in BRAC from the very inception of the organisation. However, many of the practices were not formalised until 2019 when the organisation produced the overarching safeguarding policy and the five sub-set policies, namely:

- Child and Adolescent Protection policy
- Sexual Harassment Elimination policy
- Prevention of Workplace Bullying and Violence policy
- Adults with Special Needs policy
- Whistleblowing policy

In 2020, all these policies were adapted in the BRAC International (BI) countries considering the country context and law by review of the Country Management Team and vetting by a legal counsellor. The policies are now implemented in all the BI Country Offices, the Africa Regional Office in Kenya, and the Dhaka Office in Bangladesh. **All staff members have received training and orientation on safeguarding and the five sub-set policies, along with guidelines on the reporting and response mechanism of the organisation.**

All BI offices now have a committee, known as the Human Resource Compliance Committee (HRCC), in place to review and address the complaints received in an appropriate manner. With awareness raising in all countries on safeguarding, whistleblowing and the reporting mechanism, the number of complaints lodged in 2020 spiked to a number of 69 from only 5 in 2019.

STAFF TRAINING ON SAFEGUARDING IS AN ONGOING PROCESS. IT IS INCLUDED IN THE INDUCTION OF ANY NEW STAFF JOINING THE ORGANISATION. A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES WERE TAKEN TO MAINSTREAM SAFEGUARDING WITH OTHER KEY SYSTEMS OF THE ORGANISATION.



An online e-course was developed in 2020 when classroom training could not take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



A safeguarding checklist was developed for programme design, safeguarding indicators were developed to include in the Audit Charter.



Monitoring Mechanism and risk management framework, and a checklist was developed to assess safeguarding practices in different BI Countries.



Some of the BI countries have started safeguarding awareness building for their programme participants and informed them of the contact details to report any incident violating the safeguarding policy. The safeguarding clause is included in partnership agreements and partners are also oriented on safeguarding and sub-set policies, procedures, and the reporting mechanism.

Towards the end of 2020, BI reviewed the Sexual Harassment Elimination policy to incorporate the key elements of Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). The revised policy was reviewed and vetted by UNICEF. The BI countries have also conducted a mapping exercise to locate service providers to support victims/survivors of safeguarding incidents.

Overall, a good attempt has been made to integrate safeguarding in various systems and processes within the organisation to contribute to building a safeguarding culture. However, a lot remains to be done and much more effort needs to be given in awareness building, incident reporting, case management, risk assessments, and capacity building. There are Safeguarding Focal Points in all the offices of BI who are working relentlessly to advocate and support safeguarding initiatives and ensure the safeguarding standards are met adequately.

BRAC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES



Our **Education programme** focuses on raising awareness on gender and child rights and developing a child-friendly learning atmosphere. Our programme complements the mainstream schooling system by supporting government primary and secondary schools to improve quality and strengthen capacity. We also provide training with support from local vocational and technical institutes.



Our **Early Childhood Development programme** is an investment towards breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty and facilitating economic growth. We provide early learning opportunities through our Play Labs to 3 to 6 year olds, with a low cost and play-based early learning model. Our Play Labs are safe play spaces, providing cost effective local learning materials to children in marginalised communities.



The **Agriculture, Food Security and Livelihood programme** focuses on four strategic directions - a) Strengthen pro-poor market systems, b) Make agriculture systems more resilient to climate change, c) Improve food and nutrition security, and d) Empower women and youth across the value chain.



Through our **Health programme** we partner with respective governments to reduce child mortality, improve maternal and child health, and combat diseases. We work at the community and facility level to strengthen the capacity of female community health volunteers, health workers, and doctors so that they can provide educational, preventive, and curative health services.



Through our **Youth Empowerment programme** we provide life-saving and life-transforming services to adolescent girls to prevent unintended pregnancies, improve their awareness on harmful practices, and empower them financially. We create safe spaces by establishing clubhouses for girls aged 10-21, especially those who are vulnerable, dropped out of school, and at the risk of early marriage and pregnancy.



The **Ultra-Poor Graduation** approach is a comprehensive, time-bound, integrated and sequenced set of interventions that aim to enable extreme and ultra-poor households to achieve key milestones towards sustainable livelihoods and socio-economic resilience, in order to progress along a pathway out of extreme poverty.



Through our **Emergency Preparedness and Response programme** we build local emergency preparedness and response capacities in communities, schools, and local governments. Using a participatory and inclusive approach, our interventions in urban, rural, and refugee settings prioritise the equitable participation of all groups, particularly women and youth, to ensure that they are able to mitigate risks, save lives, protect livelihoods, and build back better from disasters and crises.



With the help of **Microfinance**, we provide a range of financial services responsibly to people at the bottom of the pyramid. We particularly focus on women living in poverty in rural and hard to reach areas, to create self-employment opportunities, build financial resilience, and harness women's entrepreneurial spirit by empowering them economically.

OUR GLOBAL REACH BY COUNTRY, 2020



3,705,095
people reached in
AFGHANISTAN



55,846
people reached in
LIBERIA



166,353
people reached in
MYANMAR



94
people reached in
NEPAL



6,776
people reached in
PHILIPPINES



7,196
people reached in
RWANDA



6,381,646
people reached in
SIERRA LEONE



2,650
people reached in
SOUTH SUDAN



691,008
people reached in
TANZANIA



2,552,510
people reached in
UGANDA

A TOTAL OF 7,251,344
PEOPLE REACHED IN
AFRICA AND ASIA IN 2020

Reporting period: January - December 2020

OUR REACH BY PROGRAMME AREA, 2020



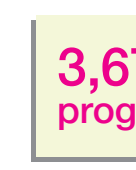
67,138 people reached through the Education programme in Afghanistan, Philippines, Uganda, Tanzania, and Liberia



22,035 people reached through the Agriculture, Food Security and Livelihood programme in Myanmar, South Sudan, Uganda, Liberia, and Sierra Leone



4,789,590 people reached through the Health programme in Afghanistan, Liberia, Uganda



3,672 people reached through the Ultra-Poor Graduation programme in Uganda and Liberia



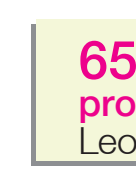
498,164 people reached through the Early Childhood Development programme in Tanzania and Uganda



36,524 people reached through the Youth Empowerment programme in Nepal, Tanzania, Uganda, Liberia, and Sierra Leone



6,176 people reached through the Emergency Preparedness and Response programme in Myanmar, Uganda, and Sierra Leone



654,845 borrowers reached through the Microfinance programme in Myanmar, Uganda, Liberia, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, and Rwanda

Reporting period: January - December 2020

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020



Afghanistan

- **Over 11.5 million people were reached** across 14 targeted provinces of Afghanistan through programmatic interventions.
- **890 participants** were trained including 10 Community-based Girls School (CBGS) Master Trainers as a core team on Child Safeguarding.
- **2,066,519 people** were reached through the Citizens’ Charter Afghanistan Project, **949,780 people** through the Health programme, and **69,435 participants** through the Education programme.

- **1,026 aqua-farmers were reached** through locally customised Nutrition Sensitive Aquaculture project.
- **486 persons with disabilities** (PWDs) were reached through the Financial Inclusion for PWDs Project.
- **140,285 people were reached** through Microfinance services.



Myanmar



Nepal

- BRAC Nepal launched the **disability-inclusive COVID-19 response** project, which will end in December 2020, with Handicap International and DEC Surkhet as partners.
- **94 young women** were trained as electrical technicians, with 56% of them now engaged as electricians in their communities.

- Provided technical assistance to DOLE and ADB to launch a graduation pilot that targeted **1,812 participants** in 29 barangays (villages) across five municipalities in Negros Occidental.
- **6,776 people** were reached through Education and Ultra-Poor Graduation programmatic interventions.



Philippines



Liberia

- **A total of 550,571 people’s** lives were impacted through the direct provision of various social development services and indirect reach.
- **35,954 people were reached** through Microfinance services.



Sierra Leone

- Through the Youth Empowerment programme, **life-skills story books were translated into audio recordings** and aired on the Ministry of Education’s daily radio shows.
- The Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme **expanded its activities to two new communities and schools**, and constructed water drainages which have helped greatly in reducing floods.
- The Agriculture, Food Security and Livelihood (AFSL) programme implemented two major projects and **reached a total number of 76,950 farmers**.
- **52,060 people were reached** through Microfinance services.

- The Emergency Food Security and Agriculture Project **targeted 1,400 flood-affected food insecure and displaced households** with **a total of 8,400 individuals**, and supported them with training and emergency supplies of vegetables and fish kits, seeds, farming tools, etc.



South Sudan



Tanzania

- The Early Childhood Development programme has **launched a radio show to provide young children with opportunities of early learning**, while parents and caregivers receive relevant information on children’s health, nutrition, and child protection.
- **190,828 people were reached** through Microfinance services.

- **Reached more than 805,504 people** through the Health programme.
- **6,602 learners** from the Early Childhood Development programme accessed e-learning through SMS and community radio shows.
- **A total of 6,166 staff**, Community Health Workers, teachers, and volunteers received training on Psychosocial Support.
- **193,944 people were reached** through Microfinance services.



Uganda

COVID-19 KEY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

AFGHANISTAN

- BRAC Afghanistan has reached a total of **11,552,637 people** directly in 14 provinces through the awareness raising and infection and prevention control activities.
- Under its dedicated COVID-19 hospital in Helmand province, BRAC Afghanistan is continuing to deliver the services and treatment to the patients with COVID-19 symptoms, including through **14 Rapid Response Teams** in the districts of the province, and has received and treated a total of 113 OPD patients.
- BRAC Afghanistan provided **helpline education support to the girls** of Girls Education Challenge-Transition (GEC-T) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PHILIPPINES

- By the end of September 2020, BRAC Philippines **reached 100,072 individuals** through its independent COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives, including life-saving informational material distribution and awareness raising campaigns.
- BRAC Philippines introduced an **online platform** that includes COVID-19 awareness-raising response initiative.

MYANMAR

- COVID-19 awareness activities **reached approximately 900,000 people** in the regions BRAC Myanmar works in. BRAC trained over 150 staff on Humanitarian Principles and Humanitarian Skills; Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation; and Disaster Risk Vulnerability Assessments.
- By the end of September 2020, BRAC Myanmar **reached 899,439 individuals** through its independent COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives, which included life-saving informational material distribution and awareness raising campaigns.

LIBERIA

- BRAC Liberia **reached a total of 1,664,370 people** across 10 counties while raising awareness on COVID-19. Which is 37% of the entire population (4.5 million).
- The country team, in partnership with government agencies including the line ministries, distributed **118,018 life-saving informational materials** to increase awareness on COVID-19 infection and prevention control.

NEPAL

- BRAC has been working with partners in Nepal to **develop and disseminate disability-inclusive messages** through SMS, radio, social media, and hotline.
- **Sanitary and hygiene kits** have been supplied at quarantine centers and municipalities, and support has been provided to make their relief guidelines and distributions more inclusive for persons with disabilities.

SIERRA LEONE

- BRAC Sierra Leone **reached over 608,187 people** through door-to-door initiatives, radio programmes, and SMS messaging.
- The Community Health Reach Project, aiming to support the government in the prevention, prompt detection, and effective response to the COVID-19 outbreak was implemented in 3 districts, reaching over **3 million people with life-saving messages and PPEs**.

SOUTH SUDAN

- BRAC South Sudan successfully completed its Emergency COVID-19 response plan funded by GAC, exceeding the majority of the targets. The project **reached more than 150,000 people** through awareness sessions, distributed 17,706 soaps/sanitizers, 33,870 IEC materials, 2,500 items of PPE and 4,000 hygiene kits and installed 300 handwashing stations.

TANZANIA

- BRAC Tanzania **reached over 3.9 million people** across the country, and distributed more than 215,537 life-saving informational materials to its programme participants.
- A **national child helpline** was set up to support the nurture and care of children especially those at risk during the pandemic.

UGANDA

- **Reached 42,729,036 people** at BRAC Uganda through COVID-19 awareness raising and infection prevention and control activities.
- **9,009 Community Health Workers (CHWs)** were provided with Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), such as hand sanitizers, face shields and masks.

BRAC INTERNATIONAL MICROFINANCE'S RESPONSE

MYANMAR, UGANDA, TANZANIA, RWANDA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA

With the COVID-19 pandemic, our clients' inherent financial resilience has been severely tested. We are endeavoring to maintain it through additional support and providing the right financial tools to strengthen and multiply their resilience at the individual, household, and community level.

BRAC International Microfinance provided

immediate relief by offering payment holidays and continued to pay staff salaries with the goal of being ready for the recovery phase and to respond immediately once in-country operations recommenced. We encouraged economic recovery by rescheduling loans, refinancing existing clients, and providing recovery loans to new BRAC clients.

STICHTING BRAC INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISORY BOARD



IRENE KHAN

Chair

Irene Zubaida Khan is director general of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO). The first woman to hold this office, she took up her position on January 1, 2012.

An international thought leader on human rights, gender, and social justice issues, Ms Khan was secretary general of Amnesty International from 2001 to 2009. Prior to that, she worked for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for 21 years at headquarters and in various field operations. She was visiting professor at the State University of New York Law School (Buffalo) in 2011.

Irene sits on the boards of several international human rights and development organisations. She is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and prestigious awards, including the City of Sydney Peace Prize in 2006 for her work to end violence against women and girls. Her book, *The Unheard Truth: Poverty and Human Rights*, has been translated into seven languages.

Born in Bangladesh, Ms Khan studied law at the University of Manchester and Harvard Law School.



SYLVIA BORREN

Vice Chair

Sylvia Borren has worked all her life within and for civil society organisations, both professionally and as a volunteer.

She was part of the Dutch and global women's and sexual rights movements (COC, ILGA, IWC for a just and sustainable Palestinian-Israeli peace) and is now advisor to the UN Women National Committee Netherlands and ATRIA (Institute on gender equality

and women's history). Ms Borren was part of the anti-poverty movement (director of Oxfam Novib 1994-2008, and co-chair of the Global Call to Action against Poverty and EEN).

She was on two national governmental advisory commissions (for Youth Policy and the Advisory Council on International Affairs), co-chair of the Worldconnectors (a Dutch think tank), on the board of a large mental health institute (Altrecht), worked as an organisational consultant with De Beuk for many years, led the project Quality Educators for All with the trade union Education International, and continues to be a member of the Worldconnectors.

Ms Borren was recently director of Greenpeace Netherlands (2011-2016), part of the Forest Stewardship Council Netherlands, and is now on the advisory commission of Staatsbosbeheer, which manages nature reserves.

She is a freelance consultant at 'Working for Justice' and a senior adviser for Governance & Integrity.



PARVEEN MAHMUD FCA

Member

Parveen Mahmud, in her varied professional career has worked with social innovations, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. Ms Mahmud started her career with BRAC, and has worked with international NGOs and development agencies. She was the deputy managing director of PKSF, Bangladesh's apex funding organisation for Microfinance Institutes. She is the founding managing director of Grameen Telecom Trust.

She was a partner in ACNABIN & Co, Chartered Accountants. She is the first female president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB), as well as the first female board member of the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), the apex accounting professional body of SAARC. She is the chairperson of CA Female Forum - Women in Leadership Committee, ICAB and is the vice chairperson of the Women in Leadership Committee of SAFA.

Ms Mahmud sits on numerous boards, including Stichting BRAC International, Apex Footwear Ltd, Grameenphone Ltd, Linde Bangladesh

Ltd, Manusher Jonnyo Foundation, Transparency International Bangladesh, and Centre for Policy Dialogue. She is the chairperson of UCEP Bangladesh, Shasha Foundation, and was chairperson of MIDAS, Shasha Denims Ltd, and Acid Survivors' Foundation. Ms Mahmud is also a member of the International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh. She was a member of the National Advisory Panel for SME Development of Bangladesh, founding board member of SME Foundation, and Convenor, SME Women's Forum.

Ms Mahmud is the recipient of Ananyinna Top Ten Women - 2018 Award, Women at Work - 2017 Award from Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services, and Women of Inspiration Awards 2017 from the Bangladesh Organisation for Learning & Development. She received the Begum Rokeya Shining Personality Award 2006 for women's empowerment from Narikantha Foundation.



GREGORY CHEN

Member

Gregory Chen has worked on financial inclusion for 25 years, with most of his work spanning across South Asia. His work focuses on hands-on advisory and implementation with microfinance institutions and, for the past decade, with newer players in digital finance. This has included work with digital players like bKash, Wave Money and also development organisations including the Aga Khan Development Network, BRAC, and Dvara. His work has included deep technical engagements with more than a dozen financial sector regulators. He has also worked as a corporate banker at Bank of America and with the financial services consulting firm Enclude.

Mr Chen is a member of CGAP's management team and oversees CGAP's policy Engagement. He focuses on helping policy makers adapt to the rapid change in the world of financial services brought on by technology, and particularly to ensure that financial systems can responsibly reach the disadvantaged.

Mr Chen is a regular speaker on microfinance and digital finance at the Boulder Institute for Microfinance, BRAC University, Johns Hopkins, Tufts University, Yale University, and American University, among others. He has a master's degree in international development from Harvard Kennedy School and a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University.



MARILOU VAN GOLSTEIN BROUWERS

Member

Marilou van Golstein Brouwers is a former chair of the Management Board and founder of Triodos Investment Management BV, a subsidiary of Triodos Bank.

Ms Brouwers is an international entrepreneurial impact investment banker, with more than 30 years of experience in values-driven business and banking, with immense expertise on impact investing.

She started working for Triodos Bank in 1990 and was involved in the founding of Triodos Investment Management, of which she became the managing director in 2003. She was the chair of the Management Board from January 2015 to December 2018.

Ms Brouwers is currently active in a variety of roles. Within Triodos Bank, she is a member of several boards and involved in the start-up of the Triodos Regenerative Money Centre. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Global Impact Investing Network and the Special Working Group on impact economy by the Global Steering Group for Impact Investment. She is chair of the Supervisory Board of B Lab Europe and the Supervisory Board of Qredits, The Netherlands, one of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative Leadership Champions.

Ms Brouwers has served on the board of directors of banks in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Russia, Afghanistan and Pakistan. She was a member of the Group of Advisors for the United Nations Year of Microcredit in 2004 and 2005, of the Executive Committee of CCAP (2003-2008), the Board of Trustees of Women's World Banking (2003-2012), the Advisory Committee of the Mastercard Foundation Fund for Rural Prosperity (2014-2017) and the Advisory Council on International Affairs Committee for Development Cooperation in The Netherlands. She was chair of SBI Limited (2011-2013), the Steering Committee of the Principles for Responsible Investment / Principles for Investors in Inclusive Finance (2011-2013) and the Advisory Board of Women in Financial Services in The Netherlands (2011-2016). She was also treasurer of the Max Havelaar Foundation (2008-2015).

Ms Brouwers studied business and economics at Erasmus University in Rotterdam.



DR DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA

Member

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, a macroeconomist and public policy analyst, is a Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka, where he was its first Executive Director. He was Bangladesh's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to WTO and UN Offices in Geneva and Vienna and former Special Advisor on LDCs to the Secretary General of UNCTAD. Earlier, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

He studied in Dhaka, Moscow, and Oxford. Visiting positions held include Senior Fulbright Fellow at the Center for Global Development, Washington DC. He serves on the boards and working groups of various leading institutions and editorial boards of reputed journals including Oxford Development Studies. He was General Secretary of the Bangladesh Economic Association for three consecutive terms.

Dr Bhattacharya chairs the Southern Voice, a network of 50 think tanks from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, dedicated to following up and reviewing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He led the pioneering multi-country studies on shaping the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations, data deficits of SDG monitoring, and early signals of SDG implementation in the developing countries. He also chairs LDC IV Monitor, an independent partnership of eight international organisations and academic institutions engaged in monitoring the outcome of the fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

He serves as the Convenor of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh – a platform of more than 100 NGOs and private sector bodies, seeking to contribute to the delivery of the SDGs at the country level.

He recently edited the volume Bangladesh's Graduation from the Least Developed Countries Group: Pitfalls and Promises, Routledge (2018); Southern Perspectives on the Post-2015 International Development Agenda, Routledge, London (2017); and was the team leader of the study Quest for Inclusive Transformation of Bangladesh: Who Not to be Left Behind (2017).



VICTORIA SEKITOLEKO

Member

Victoria Balyejusa Sekitoleko is a former Minister of Agriculture in the Ugandan government. She was a representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in China, Mongolia, and South Korea, and previously served as the FAO's representative in Ethiopia to the African Union and to the Economic Community for Africa.

Ms Sekitoleko is currently the chair of the governing board of the Uganda Agribusiness Alliance, which unites all those involved in the industry to optimise their ability to profitably and sustainably pursue the many global opportunities in the world's largest industry.

In 2010, Ms Sekitoleko founded the Uganda Community Cultural Centre which trades as Speakers Forum. This trains professionals to become skilled presenters and also supports community libraries.

Ms Sekitoleko was educated at Makerere University in Kampala, where she attained a BSc in Agriculture majoring in Farm Management and Extension.

GROUP FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Composition of the present finance and audit committee is as follows:

- Parveen Mahmud FCA - Chair
- Dr Muhammad Musa - Member
- Syed Abdul Muntakim - Member Secretary
- Sylvia Borren - Member
- Hans Eskes - Member

The primary function of the finance and audit committee is to assist the governing board in fulfilling its responsibilities on the:

- Financial reporting and budgeting processes
- System of internal controls and risk assessment
- Compliance with legal and regulatory requirements
- Qualifications, independence, and performance of the external auditors
- Qualifications, independence, and performance of the internal audit function

STICHTING BRAC INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT AS OF JUNE, 2021

MANAGEMENT BOARD



DR MUHAMMAD MUSA

Executive Director



SHAMERAN ABED

Senior Director
Microfinance and Ultra-Poor Graduation



RUTH OKOWA

Director
Africa Region



SYED ABDUL MUNTAKIM

Director
Finance



MUNMUN SALMA CHOWDHURY

Director
Human Resources

DIRECTORS



NELLY ENWEREM-BROMSON
SENIOR DIRECTOR
Programme Development, Resource
Mobilisation and Learning (PRL)



SHAMERAN ABED
SENIOR DIRECTOR
Microfinance and Ultra-Poor Graduation



RUTH OKOWA
DIRECTOR
Africa Region



MUNMUN SALMA CHOWDHURY
DIRECTOR
Human Resources



SYED ABDUL MUNTAKIM
DIRECTOR
Finance



CASSANDRA NELSON
DIRECTOR
Communications and Outreach



SAJEDUL HASAN
DIRECTOR
Humanitarian Programme



SONIA WALLMAN
DIRECTOR
Grant Management, PRL



NANDA DULAL SAHA
DIRECTOR
Internal Audit



AFM SHAHIDUR RAHMAN
DIRECTOR
Programme Development
Asia, PRL



MD LIAKATH ALI
DIRECTOR
Climate Change

BRAC UGANDA MANAGEMENT

Dr. George Matete
Francis Tabu
Jane Kyokusiima
Nazim Uddin Khlalifa
George Mukisa
Ritah Naisanga
Nazia Sharmin
December Walter Anywar
Kalunda Alfred
Dr. Inshallah Franco
Eliud Maranga

Country Director
Head of Programmes
Head of Strategy
Head of Finance
Head of Audit
Head of Human Resource
Programme Manager
Manager Administration
Programme Manager
Programme Manager

Education and Youth
Monitoring and Evaluation
Procurement and Logistics
Health
Ultra-Poor Graduation

BRAC UGANDA DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS








































PROGRAMMES IN BRAC UGANDA

EDUCATION

Education has been identified as a critical component for driving social growth, economic development, and transformation after the political independence of Uganda. 80% of Uganda’s school-age children live in rural areas with underdeveloped infrastructure for education. As the pandemic continues, education in more impoverished rural areas is hit the hardest due to underlying disparities. Innovative solutions are needed to support this sector and ensure the continued education of rural populations.

OUR APPROACH

BRAC Uganda operates two programmes in the education sector - The Mastercard Foundation Scholars’ programme and the Early Childhood Development programme. With support from Mastercard Foundation, BRAC Uganda does enrolment and placement of scholars in the top 100 best schools of the country with good facilities that enable conducive learning with access to educational materials that promote quality education and holistic development of our scholars. We promote gender equality by providing an enabling environment and competitive criteria to ensure at least 60% enrolment of girls.

Our ECD programme implements play models through parenting and centre-based programme for 3-8 years old children. In this approach, children, parents, and play leaders are engaged in learning through play activities with funding support from the Lego Foundation, Yidan Foundation, ELMA Foundation, and NORAD. In 2020, BRAC piloted a number of innovative remote learning approaches to support children’s education during the pandemic wave, which caused long-term closure of schools in Uganda.

MOVING FORWARD

With the graduation of the last cohort of the MCF Scholars’ programme and the impending project closure, the programme will undertake an end-line evaluation to document the programme impact. Focus will also be diverted to supporting the transition of the recently graduated cohort of scholars to the tertiary level. We aim to expand our ECD programme to help more children through home-based learning during the pandemic, and 10 Humanitarian Play Labs are set to be piloted in 2021 in the refugee context of the West Nile region.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

6,602 children enrolled into pre-primary/ ECD play labs

194 stakeholders reached through call centres

Launch of an E-learning platform for secondary students with preloaded learning materials

Distribution of tablets to **2126** scholars to facilitate E-learning

Distribution of seeds to **2126** scholars’ households to ensure food security and improved livelihoods during the pandemic

Reached **350,000** listeners on an average through **50** radio episodes

15,622 children (6602 direct learners and 9020 indirect learners), 12617 parents (6602 direct participants and 9020 indirect participants), 191 play leaders and teachers have been reached with 115 SMS activities developed for 3-8 years children

185 play leaders and teachers and **11048** parents were reached through **312** psychosocial training

Food package to **1,136** parents during lockdown

A YOUNG GIRL’S PIONEERING VISION TO HELP HER COMMUNITY

Bridget Natukunda is a budding entrepreneur in her first year at Kyambogo university pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Human Nutrition and dietetics. She graduated from Gayaza High School in 2019 under the Mastercard Foundation Scholars’ programme.

Bridget’s passion for agriculture was the primary driving force when it came to community service and giving back. She wanted to do something in agriculture that would enable her to earn money as well as benefit her community. While she was attending a biology class at Kabanyoro Agricultural Research Centre, she got the idea of rearing earthworms. After gathering enough information about the work and materials required, Bridget kicked off the project towards the end of 2018.

After setting up her project, she went door to door and distributed posters inviting anyone interested in learning about how earthworms can be used to produce organic fertilisers. Many people joined her training and learned to rear earthworms, obtain their urine and add value to it through making organic fertilisers and pesticides. Seeing the success of her project, Bridget feels confident about her capability to leave an impact on her community. “I am grateful to BRAC Uganda and the Mastercard Foundation for exposing me to such learning opportunities. I want to expand and make the production of organic fertiliser and pesticides more profitable,” said Bridget, optimistic about the future.

EMPOWERMENT AND LIVELIHOOD FOR ADOLESCENTS

Uganda has the world’s youngest population, with about 78% of its population below the age of 30. The country also has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in Sub-Saharan Africa as these youths are not engaged in education, employment, or any training. Many adolescent girls are survivors of rape, sexual assault, and experience early pregnancy. Rural adolescent girls face additional challenges due to gendered social norms that reinforce harmful practices such as early and forced marriage.

OUR APPROACH

BRAC Uganda’s Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents (ELA) programme aims to impact results in delayed pregnancy, delayed marriage, healthier relationships, improved enabling environment, and increased income opportunities for adolescent girls and young women. BRAC’s ELA programme offers tens of thousands of adolescent girls an opportunity for a better life through safe spaces, mentorship, life skills lessons, sexual reproductive health, and livelihood training. ELA programme’s safe spaces, also known as ELA clubs, focus on girls who have dropped out of school or may be at risk of early pregnancy, forced marriages, and gender-based violence.

ELA’s unique approach combines sexual and reproductive health education, livelihood training, and financial literacy training has been proven to be effective in helping girls to realise their full potential. Backed by the Randomised Control Trial (RCT), the programme has successfully empowered girls to reduce teenage pregnancy by 34%, delayed marriage by 62%, eliminated gender based violence by 25%, and promoted birth control among adolescents and young women as well as increased income generation.

BRAC Uganda ELA programme promotes the involvement of the stakeholders through community dialogues with parents, leaders, and other stakeholders.

MOVING FORWARD

BRAC’s RCT on ELA Uganda has proven its significant spillover effect on the communities. Our primary aim for scaling up is to create integration between ELA and other programmes at BRAC Uganda. The scale up of the ELA programme would uphold a cost-effective programme implementation model that is sustainable and challenges social norms, promotes gender equity, and eliminates gender based violence through SRH.



A DESPAIRED TEENAGE MOTHER BECOMES A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS OWNER

Hajara Kawara, a young single mother without any formal education, now owns a firm business on which she stands. She was one of the 50 programme participants of the apprenticeship training conducted by BRAC Uganda under the EELAY project.

After her mother’s death, Hajara was left with barely any money, so school was never an option for her. When she was only 17, she started working as a housemaid, where her employer sexually assaulted her. As she was dealing with the trauma of the assault, Hajara soon discovered she was pregnant. The circumstances steered her towards a world of deep despair and sadness until one day, a friend told her about an organisation named BRAC training young girls like herself and equipping them with skills to improve their lives.

Hajara was educated on multiple topics such as reproductive health, family planning, and financial literacy for six months. She also received hands-on training on knitting. After the training was over, BRAC provided her with a startup kit that includes a knitting machine. Hajara distinctly remembers that as the happiest day of her life. With the help of the kit, she has built a successful knitting business that is doing well even amidst the pandemic. Hajara, whose life was once in a cloud of uncertainty, proudly says now, “I can support myself and my child all on my own. Thanks to BRAC, My life is so much better than it was before.”

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

553 clubs in 29 districts of Uganda

10,214 adolescent girls and boys registered in ELA clubs

18,749 mothers/ parents of club members trained

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAMME

Uganda is one of the largest refugee-hosting nations in the world, with over 1,400,000 (as of February 2020). The vast influx of refugees is due to several factors in Uganda’s neighbouring countries, especially war and violence in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and associated economic crisis and political instability. Additionally, localised flooding and landslides occur throughout Uganda, particularly during the rainy seasons. Uganda is also an earthquake zone.

OUR APPROACH

BRAC Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme (EPRP) in Uganda provides a model for strengthening local emergency response capacities by collaborating with national and regional governments, non-governmental organisations, community members, local authorities, and academic institutions to conduct training programmes and simulation exercises on emergency preparedness. We aim to build disaster preparedness and emergency response capabilities of local actors, vulnerable communities, institutions, and BRAC country programmes in the Kiryandongo and Arua districts.

The EPRP programme supports government resilience strategy for refugees and host communities, based on the ReHoPE framework and in line with Uganda’s second National Development Plan (NDP) as well as the Settlement Transformative Agenda, that strengthen the resilience of refugees and host community members to cope with and recover from the impact of the large influx of refugees.

EPRP currently implements financial inclusion for the Refugees Project and provides financial inclusion by strengthening their livelihood resilience through multiple business skills training, life skills, savings and credit management, entrepreneurship, and start-up business enterprises. We also installed hand-washing facilities to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the refugees and host communities.

MOVING FORWARD

BRAC Uganda will expand the programme to provide psychosocial support to COVID-19 survivors. We will continue delivering soap and sanitation and financial inclusion supports to the most vulnerable communities. Through all our interventions, we want to ensure women have control over the decisions that affect their lives during this crisis. We plan to improve our engagement with donor agencies to help support the affected populations in Uganda

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

GOALS

1 NO
POVERTY



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS





PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

- 104 community volunteers in 2 schools and community volunteer groups
- 235 students trained in disaster preparedness, first aid, and search and rescue
- 83 teachers and education department officials trained in disaster preparedness, first aid, and search and rescue
- 726 community members and volunteers trained in disaster preparedness, first aid, search and rescue, and simulation
- 250 community volunteers, students, and district officials trained in Ebola prevention
- 120 BRAC staff trained in disaster preparedness, first aid, and search and rescue
- 125 Village and Saving Groups Association VSLA in Rhino and Kiryandongo has access to financial services

Strengthened capacity and preparedness of 2 schools, 2 communities, and 2 local governments

BUILDING A RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT TOGETHER

Steven Gai is a South Sudanese refugee who has been living in Uganda since 2013. He is a community leader and Refugee Welfare Council secretary for disability in Rhino, Arua.

Steven’s journey from war-torn South Sudan was not an easy one. He faced myriads of struggle on the way to where he is now. These hardships made him more compassionate about his community and the environment. As an RWC secretary for disability, he helps the community with sensitisation and welfare and gives a voice to people with disabilities. With the help of BRAC’s training, he also helps to resolve conflicts among the youth and keep peace in the community.

Steven’s town faces frequent shortages of rain and strong winds that can damage their crops and houses. The disaster preparedness training from BRAC has made him understand the necessity of protecting the environment. He is now encouraging the community’s youth to be aware of the environmental needs and participate in tree plantations. “Before BRAC’s intervention, we were very vulnerable to disasters such as windstorms and fires. Now we have been able to build resilience and improve everyone’s capacity to withstand disasters across the whole community,” states Steven.

HEALTH

One of the biggest challenges for Uganda is inadequate healthcare centres and resources. There is only one doctor for every 8,300 Ugandans. With 70% of doctors practising in urban areas, where only 20% of the population lives, the coverage in rural areas is much worse: one doctor for every 22,000 people. The lack of medicines and equipment is evident with long waiting times, negative attitudes, and inadequate referrals.

OUR APPROACH

BRAC Uganda’s Health programme supports Uganda’s Ministry of Health (MoH) to implement essential maternal and child health care services through more than 4,500 private volunteers, known as ‘Community Health Promoters’ (CHPs). The CHPs provide access to essential health products, promotive, basic curative, and preventive health services and provide critical referral linkage to government health facilities.

BRAC Uganda delivers its health programme through implementing projects that address infectious diseases, health systems strengthening, and non-communicable disease prevention. We implement all our maternal and child health interventions with a digital mobile application that allows the CHPs to deliver the essential services accurately and report real-time data that supports timely and informed decision-making from community levels to the national level.

MOVING FORWARD

Our focus is to strengthen partnerships with the central government, district local governments, ministries, and other stakeholders. We will continue to contribute to the government’s efforts in combating COVID-19. Ensuring the provision of essential services for pregnant women and children under five and scaling up the digitisation process will be one of our major priorities.



YOUNG HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IMPROVING THEIR PEERS’ WELLBEING

Evelyn Nakimera is a 24 years old Young Community Health Promoter (YCHP) of Mabanda village. She was chosen by the Local Council and trained by BRAC in February 2020 to become a youth community health promoter in charge of educating young women and girls about family planning.

However, her work was not that easy in the beginning. “Before this project, these family planning services were inaccessible to the youth in this community. After I was trained, I started moving out to the communities to try and sensitise people about family planning, but they were very unwelcoming,” she says. The parents were not keen on the idea of teaching their children about family planning as social norms stigmatised it as immoral.

With time, Evelyn eventually was able to convince them that this was the right way to go. It has been smooth sailing for her since then. “Initially, I wanted nothing to do with it. But now I get an injection every three months, and so far I have not had any issues at all,” said Hamidah Jamada, a 23 years old mother who benefited from the programme. “Evelyn (YCHP) does not ask us for any money. She extensively explains our options and then administers the contraceptive depending on what we have chosen without charging us a single penny,” she added. As Evelyn is a member of their own community, they are more comfortable coming to her with their problems than going to a distant hospital that requires spending a lot of time and money. The number of early and unwanted pregnancies in Mabanda has declined significantly with the efforts of YCHPs like Evelyn.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

In 2020, we were able to reach over **2,300,493** populations including 97,298 pregnant women and 1,149,169 children under five.

We treated **580,721** children under 5 for malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhoea.

We have supported the government of Uganda to respond holistically to the COVID-19 pandemic through sensitisation of over **22 million** Ugandans

Provision of handwashing soap, training of government workers in **75** districts on Integrated Diseases Surveillance and Response and Psychosocial Support.

DISABILITY INCLUSIVE GRADUATION

In Uganda, an estimated 12% of the population has a disability (UBOS, 2016). Because Uganda’s economy is dominated by subsistence farming, people with disabilities have fewer employment options (Inclusion Works consortium, 2019). Under-investment in disability inclusive development, a lack of rigorous evidence on the extent of the challenge, and weak capacity and accountability of development actors are stymying progress in eliminating poverty.

OUR APPROACH

The Disability Inclusive Graduation (DIG) project is designed to ensure the four pillars - Social Protection, Livelihood Promotion, Financial Inclusion, and Social Empowerment -are adapted to ensure inclusion for persons with disabilities. Over a period of 24 months, the project aims to help project participant households increase their income, improve their health and nutritional status, improve their saving behaviour, and support life and financial skills. Participants are further guided and empowered with skills and knowledge to make appropriate market linkage choices to ensure sustainable profitability of income-generating activities they are involved in.

To ensure participants with disabilities actively participate in all the DIG project activities on an equal basis with others, they receive a retinue of rehabilitation services (physiotherapy, occupation therapy, and psychosocial support), home and work premise adaptation, and assistive aids to enhance functional autonomy. Furthermore, their social capital is strengthened through social integration in the target district, which includes participation in decision making in the households and communal activities such as in the inclusive VSLA and VPRC.

MOVING FORWARD

In 2021, the programme envisions enrolling all 2700 project participants and integrate all four graduation pillars into project operations at the household level. We will form all 150 VSLA groups and 200 VPRC groups to foster a savings culture in ultra-poor households. These activities will provide them with the opportunity to build social capital, linkages for healthcare and markets, as well as access to government programmes and other social safety net services.



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

720 households (563 females, 29 males, and 128 (64 females, 64 male) persons with disabilities) received enterprise management, life skills, and financial literacy training

240 (195 females, 09 males, and 36 persons with disabilities) participants received VSLA training, and 10 VSLA groups were formed

720 households (563 females, 29 males, and **128** (64 females, 64 male) persons with disabilities) were supported to construct livestock shelters, where appropriate, and then receive livelihood assets transferred at the household levels

2,671 goats, **12** cattle, **614** poultry birds, **18** piglets, **17** ducks, and **4** turkeys were distributed.

108 persons with disabilities were selected to get various assistive technologies to improve their functional autonomy and independence. Support.

THE BEGINNING OF A BETTER TOMORROW

Atala Ambrose, 24 years old, is a person with multiple disabilities in Atur village. He lives with his wife and his toddler child.

As a person who no one believed in his community, life before the interventions of the BRAC DIG project is too painful for him to remember. He has attended the VSLA, financial literacy training, asset management, and life skills training, which all have positively impacted his life and that of his family. The training made him realise that his disability and poverty do not define him. He, too, had the capability to save using his financial literacy and life skills.

Alongside the training, Ambrose has received four goats and five chickens. He plans to put all his efforts into becoming a livestock owner in Atur village. Ambrose finally feels a sense of belonging to the community. He is motivated to catch up with his mates who left him behind and ensure all his children go to school. “The training changed our mindset about how to make a living. My family and I are grateful to BRAC for showing us the pathway to a better future,” says Ambrose.

PROGRAMME LOCATIONS, BRAC UGANDA



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS