



Hope Care Rescue Mission

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1.0. Introduction

Hope Care Rescue Mission (HOCRAM) is a non-profit organization that supports acid and burns victims/survivors, victims of chemical abuse and fire outbreaks, those affected by accidents, people living with disabilities, the elderly, and victims of gender based violence and social violence (underserved people who are mainly women and young girls). The organization was founded in 2017 and legally registered in 2020 with registration number: 80020002437838 to execute its objectives in Uganda

The birth of HOCRAM is as a result of several challenging experiences of the founding members who happen to be victims of violence (socio-economic, community, domestic and political violence). Due to increasing abuse of the right to life through use of acid and other burning fluids, victims of such attacks face various challenges that are life threatening to; deaths, severe burns, physical impairment (partial/permanent blindness), mental health, community stigma and loss of livelihoods.

Most of the cases are as a result of gender based violence in nature and the perpetrators aim at not only harming but also killing. In most cases victims end up losing their lives and for the lucky survivors they end up with burn scars, with permanent impairment for the rest of their lives. It is through such experiences and stigma that HOCRAM was found to give life support and hope to victims of such attacks.

Based on experiences, challenges faced by victims of abuse do not start and end in hospital but also extend in society where the reality of life is seen and felt which calls for the need for care and support including; Palliative, psychosocial, medical, Orthopedic and spiritual support to victims of violence especially those attacked with acid burns or other forms of violence. Many of whom are faced with disabilities, those people who develop disabilities later in life to enable them live positively in their societies.

Our primary focus is to minimize life threatening risks associated with work, domestic and community violence within society. We provide response to violent life threatening incidents such as work accidents, domestic violence, gender -based violence and community violence to save lives of victims. Our major goal is to restrain, rescue, support and empower victims to save their lives with possible support to initiate emergency legal support as well as case reporting and emergency evidence collection.

1.1. Goal of the Organisation

- To improve the living conditions of the underserved groups of people and to contribute to the reduction and prevention of burns violence, domestic violence, gender based violence, social stigmatization and to promote their social -economic empowerment and human rights.

1.2. Vision

- A society where human rights of the underserved groups of people are recognized and respected.

1.3. Mission

To bring hope, empowerment, improved living conditions and dignity to the underserved groups of people

1.4. Target population for the year 2020

- Acid survivors
- Burn survivors
- Care givers
- Orphans
- People who get disabled as a result of certain circumstances in life
- Victims of gender based violence
- Community at large
- Key stakeholders (human rights organizations, government agencies among others)
- People living with HIV

2.0. Strategic Objectives, Activities, Achievements, Challenges and way forward

2.1. Strategic Objectives

- 2.1.1. To provide care and support to the victims /survivors, care takers, children left behind (orphans) as a result of chemical, gender based or social violence as well provide a shelter (a home) where victims can meet, share ideas and seek guidance.
- 2.1.2. To create awareness and increase knowledge on burns prevention, first Aid, HIV/AIDS prevention services among burns survivors through promotion of behavioral change approaches and also reduce stigma and discrimination among the underserved.
- 2.1.3. To lobby and advocate for the full implementation of specific laws such as acid laws, work safety laws, rights and inclusion of underserved population to ensure they are respected, compensated and considered so as to bring about a desired change in all discriminating laws, policies, practices and attitudes.
- 2.1.4. To provide palliative care support including physiological, psychological, medical and spiritual guidance to burns survivors, people with disabilities, those people who develop disabilities later in life, orphans, people living with HIV and women victims of domestic violence (underserved population) through hospital and home based care programs in order to enable them recover and live positively in their societies.
- 2.1.5. To provide emergency response support to the underserved people in terms of medical support, surgeries, foods, basic items, orthopedic items and refer them to nearest medical centers.

- 2.1.6. To improve the standard of living of the underserved groups of people and the community through provision of like skills, creating income generating activities, and provide care and support to the underserved.

2.2. Organizational Activities / programs for the Year 2020

Activities of Hope Care Rescue Mission cover the entire country and our works aim at contributing to the reduction and prevention of rights abuse associated with violence as well as promote socio-economic empowerment and rights of marginalized groups in Uganda focusing on advocacy, palliative care, rehabilitation, promotion of human rights, Education, Health, Child care support, disability, research, emergency intervention, reduction of domestic violence and Gender based violence among others.

2.2.1. Rescue Program

In the year 2020 the organization managed to set up a survivors' rescue and support center which houses Hocram offices and the rescue home consisting of office equipments and other accommodation items for the rescue center.

The main aim of this activity is to have a main service center where survivors can seek counseling, those who cannot go back home can first settle for some time as we prepare him or her to face the society outside there and for those supported with surgeries can first be housed as they get ready to go for treatment.



Linneti the Executive Director HOCRAM in office



Manika and his son in the middle at the rescue center waiting to undergo a surgery

2.2.1.1. Home Based Care Program

Hope Care rescue Mission main goal is to bring hope to those who seem hopeless and have a family where we can all share different views affecting us and have solutions, most of these people have been through the worst and they only need a soldier to lean on and people who have gone through the same to call a family. Family reunions help us to understand these people deeply and gain their trust to enable them share openly which improves their confidence.

Covid 19 pandemic caused a lot of suffering to too many people so we called upon people to support our work lucky enough Mercy Link Foundation Africa came in to partner with us to give nutritional support and spiritual guidance to burns victims around Kampala and Wakiso Districts.

Below are some of the photos of the beneficiaries.



Hocram and Mercy Link Foundation Team with Florence at her home



HOPE CARE RESCUE MISSION (HOCRAM)

HOCRAM and Mercy Link Foundation Africa team handing over food to the beneficiaries, (Middle) Linneti checking Judith's scars and (R) the team offering spiritual guidance to Jamida



Vasta with the HOCRAM team trying to see the hand that was amputated after an acid attack (R) Sharifa with Linneti at her home



Vanisha (R) showing her scars to HOCRAM team, (Middle) Amos with Linneti at his home and (R) Judith with Linneti at home



Mutesi (R)with Hocram Team,(Middle) Linneti with Lydia and the kid and (R) Mukanika being supported with basic items in Kabale

2.2.1.2 Child Care Support Program

In 2020 we lost many victims as a result of burns violence and lockdown made it hard for many of them to access medical facilities which increased the number orphans left in our care to 20, In November we paid a tribute to Shamim's family who passed away due to severe wounds which she sustained as a result of an acid attack acid, she left 2 children in our care, we did an assessment and supported the children with basic items as shown in the pictures.



Hocram team with the family members of late Shamim and her children

From our face book post requesting people to support the children left behind due to burns violence, one person came who has always been supporting our work promised to support the baby girl with school fees up primary 7

2.2.2 Advocacy and Awareness

The organization has been at the front line of creating awareness about burns violence and prevention and many survivors have been hosted on various major radios and Television stations to share their stories and help the public understand the issues the underserved people such as acid and burns survivors go through and what needs to be done



Reenah (Right) being interviewed by Sanyuka journalist and (right) Linneti Hocram director sharing her story on Uganda's NTV

Publications

The Vogue Magazine: <https://en.vogue.me/culture/vogue-me-investigates-the-rise-in-acid-attacks/>

Raising Awareness about the plight of Acid Survivors:
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10223027707460104&id=1202494501/

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Burnt-bone-Uganda-s-acid-attack-survivors-seek-justice/688334-5460752-gp9g8jz/index.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/gallery/2020/feb/18/acid-attack-survivors-in-uganda-pictures>

2.2.3 Human Rights Program

In the year 2020 we were able to meet key stakeholders as far as human rights work is concerned and we had a meeting with Uganda Human Rights Commission to share the way forward on what can be done to reduce acid attacks in Uganda and they promised to come up with a report to inform the general public about the problem of burns violence.



Linneti and Deus burn survivors after the meeting with Uganda Human Rights Commission

Meeting with State House Anti -Corruption Unit

We also reached out to State House Anti- Corruption Unit Kampala to intervene in the mismanagement of acid and burns cases which have always been closed and die a natural death due corruption and limited time given to victims to first heal. 5 cases were reported, investigations are still going one and at least 1 suspect who burnt Mekanika John in Kabale District was followed up and arrested.

2.2.4 Palliative Care Program (Hospital visit program)

This activity aims at identification and assessment of victims in hospital which helps us to clearly understand the causes, problems they are facing, how they can be solved as a way of moving a journey with them in their recovery process. It involves assessing the mental health, physical well -being, the soul and one's religious beliefs (holistic approach). It involves proving counseling, sharing past experience with victims to help them develop their confidence and also referring and advising them on various issues.

2020 had a devastating impact on to the burns victims and other underserved groups of people where most of them found it hard to reach out to the nearest health facilities to access proper medical care, report cases of violence such as acid and burns violence, gender based violence among others to the nearest police stations due to limited movements as a result of lock down. As an organization we were also severely affected by the Covid 19 pandemic and we could not reach out to all the victims in the different hospitals / homes and offer them our services as a result at least 44 people were attacked with acid and other 57 burnt intentionally totaling to 101 cases of acid and burns violence. Out of those burnt with acid 22 were women (59%), 15 men (34 %), 3 children (7%) and 3 women passed away and out of 57 burnt intentionally 39 women were burnt (68%), 8 men (14%) also got burnt and 10 children (18%) out these 56 victims 7 people passed away showing an increase in acid and burns violence cases in Uganda.

The leading causes of these cases included relationship going bad (gender based violence) land conflicts, business conflicts and others still not known. However many cases were not recorded because many victims died before reaching a health facility, others went to nearby clinics, herbal centers and others stayed at home due to restricted movements caused by lockdown which has left many of them to get disfigured or disabled due to lack of rehabilitation services.

Hospital visit photos



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Linneti from (HOCRAM) getting information of Shamim (L) and baby Pauline (Middle) in terrible pain and Sharifa (R) showing her scars



Sharifa holding the orthopedic items provided by HOCRAM, (Middle) Sharifa putting on the neck collar and pressure garment and (R) Reenah counseling Makanika after operation



Abubakari (L), Ronald (Middle) in hospital with Linneti a Hocram member and Prosy (R) sleeping on her bed in severe pain



A baby that was burnt in a house being given a yellow banana by Hocram member (Middle) Godfrey on his bed in pain and (R) Reenah counseling Judith and her family

2.2.5. Emergency Response program

During Lockdown the organization supported over 50 survivors with food relief and financial support to enable them put a plate of food on their tables as part of our emergency response program.

2.1.5.1. One Mouth Project

Early June this year we received money worth 5,215,751.00 (Five million, two hundred fifteen thousand seven hundred fifty one shillings) from our Go Fund Me fundraising and 171,000 Ugandan shillings via mobile money totaling to 5,386,751 Ugandan Shillings to help unlock acid attack survivors in Uganda who were finding it had to get what to eat. We used the money to buy food, cater for transport costs and we also sent some money to some survivors who were in locked districts.

Photos of some of those who benefited from the one mouth project



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2.2.5.2. Health Care Program

In addition to emergency response program over 3 survivors were supported to undergo reconstructive surgeries because of their worsening situation and through online fundraisings we reached out to friends for support and all the 3 survivors had successful surgeries. 1 survivor was supported with capital to add in his business after surgery.



John Makanika (R) after the operation, Sharifa (Middle) affording to put a smile after surgery and Yasin after surgery.

2.2.6 Empowerment Program

This activity aims at contributing to the improvement of victims of chemical abuse, burns violence, social violence and gender based violence through provision of life planning skills in order to break the York of vulnerability and create a good working conducive environment to enable the underserved people obtain a successful /desirable life so as to eradicate poverty in Uganda and enable them become self- reliant.

Due to Covid 19 pandemic, our empowerment program was greatly affected because people were not allowed to gather in one place and all training programs were prohibited but we managed to empower Amos Katurebe politically and offered him all the support he needed to go through and he won elections as the Mbarara municipality Councilor.



Amos seeking for support from the public with one of the Hocram members

2.3 Achievements for the Year 2020

- 1 shelter (rescue center or support center) was established
- At least over 70% of the victims of burns violence have gained confidence to speak in public as they share their stories.
- Over 10 articles were published and 5 Television talk shows held in 2020.
- 50 survivors were reached out with food relief, basic items and others supported financially during lockdown in their homes.
- Over 80 homes of burns survivors were reached out, supported with basic needs, counselled and given bibles to help strengthen them spiritually after lock down.
- At least 1 survivor was empowered politically and won elections and over 30 survivors empowered economically with start-up capital in form of Micro Loan.
- At least 1 child got a sponsor for her education from nursery to primary seven.
- Acid and burns violence has been considered to be a form of gender based violence in Uganda.
- 3 survivors were supported to undergo surgeries
- Over 150 burns victims in hospital were reached out, counselled and supported with basic items such as food relief, pressure garments and others supported with medical items.
- At least 1 suspect was called back and arrested

2.4 Challenges Faced in the Year 2020

- Lack of clear statistical data makes it hard for the public to clearly understand the problem of acid and burns violence.
- Due to the overwhelming number of acid survivors in Uganda, we could not reach out to all the survivors we knew because they are scattered in many hard to reach places. The 50 people who benefited from the one mouth program informed other survivors who didn't benefit and around 12 survivors called asking us to also consider them next time.
- Curfew and Covid 19 lock down restrictions affected much of our activities such as empowerment program, awareness campaigns and one mouth program among others.
- Lack of intervention by government, human rights activist, women activists and other development partners in issues affecting the underserved such as acid and burns victims/ survivors.
- Poor roads too hard to reach places
- Many of these people are scattered in different parts of the country which makes movement complicated.
- Inadequate funding
- The pandemic and electoral process affected our work especially the Human Rights Report on acid violence was not published since they had to first put focus on other issues.

2.5. Lessons learnt During Implementation

- 60% of the population learn easily about the problem through visuals (documentaries)
- At least 60% of the victims of gender based or social based violence need not only monetary support but also prefer having a shoulder to lean on, people to call a family since most of them have lost hope in life.
- There's a big gap between rights and reality and many state institutions have failed women and the lack of law enforcement is a major reason why violence against women is under reported.
- Some victims do not report their cases to police due to shame or fear.

2.6. Way forward

- Acid and burns violence cases are still on a high increase in Uganda which requires the government, UN agencies, Civil Society Organizations and other international organizations to intervene and conduct a state wide baseline survey to clearly understand the magnitude, households affected, the effects it has on the government and community at large.
- Emphasis should be put on advocacy and awareness programs for people to understand the first Aid, where to refer the patients, the effects, help community members learn other peaceful means of conflict management and enable them learn how to treat and love the survivors just like others.
- Needs of burns victims and other underserved people should be given attention by the government if we are to achieve gender equality and sustainable development,
- There's need to rebuild the lives of the underserved people through provision of psychosocial support, capacity building programs and also support them financially to start up income generating activities.
- Train more health workers on burns management and doctor-patient relationship.
- Set up a rehabilitation center for victims of burns violence and domestic violence

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- There's need for a policy to regulate the easy accessibility of acid and provide proper guidelines to the users of acid in order to combat burns violence in Uganda.
- More documentaries and survivors stories should be used for people to understand well about the problem.
- More fundraisings need to be done to enable the smooth running of organization programs.
- There's need to breakdown the cultural norms that encourage these attacks.

3.0. Budget for the Year 2020

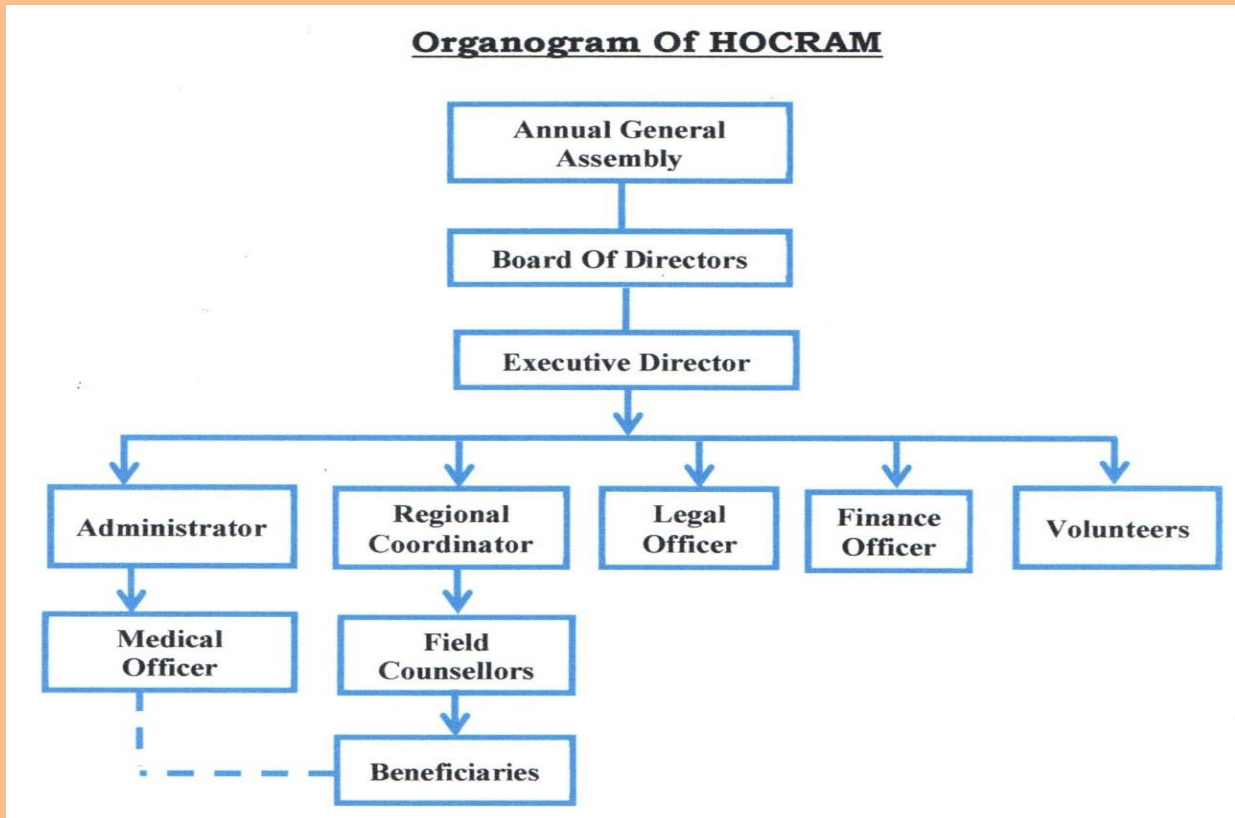
Hope Care Rescue Mission (HOCRAM) was funded in the year 2020 and most of its activities depended on donations got from friends and well -wishers as shown in the table below.

1. Go fund me- One mouth project to support survivors during lock down
2. Donations towards surgeries – to support three acid survivors undergo surgeries
3. Donations towards other programs- to support the various activities such support center set up, administration, palliative care program, home based care, human rights program, advocacy among others

Donor	Cash	Total Received
Go fund me	5,215,751.00	5,215,751.00
Donations towards surgeries	2,800,000	2,800,000
Donations towards other programs	7,000,000	7,000,000
Total		15,015,750

4.0. Organizational management

Hope Care Rescue Mission (HOCRAM) has a general assembly, Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, management staff plus volunteers of different management staff. The organization has 3 full time workers and 2 volunteers.



5.1. Acknowledgement

We thank the almighty God for the work being done, Special thanks goes to all those who have stood with us to give hope to the hopeless and bring a difference in the lives of the underserved people and all those who have contributed to the development of this organization. We thank the various organizations that have supported burns survivors in different ways such as RISE USA headed by Mrs. Angie Vredevelde, Ellen Galloway, Mercy Link Foundation Africa, Life Empowerment Foundation, Rubanda Development Association, Women of Destiny (WOD), State House Anti- Corruption Unit, Human Rights Organizations that have mentored us into better human rights activists, the media houses in different parts of the world such as Vogue Magazine, Monitor publications, The Guardian, New Vision, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), NTV, Agency French Press, Next Media Services, Daily Monitor and other radio stations, thank you so much for writing and airing stories of acid and burns violence in Uganda and making the general public aware about the problem.

Special thanks goes to Mr. Herbert Musiimenta, Mr. Mpagi Robert, Mrs. Betty Flossy Ruboha, Mrs. Rachel Ball De Slivestri, Mr. Paul Bukenya, Mr. David Rodriguez, Mr. Watson Owampaire, Mr. Muhumuza Albert, Mr. Joseph Talemwa, Mrs. Anne Kuzungu, Mr. Charles Rwebembera, Mr. Birungi James Sliver, Mr. Charles Bimanya, who have always stood with us from the day the organization started up to date we value your efforts so much. We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to Madam Nicole Former Head of Programs UN office Of Human Rights Commission and now Head, Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) for always guiding us to be better human rights defenders.

We also appreciate Mr. Mugisha Raymond, Mr. Yusuf Gasule, Mr. Dan Musinguzi, Mr. Norbert Tumusiime, Mr. Mukasa Fred, Mr. Andrew Mumpenje, Kansibante Andrew, Ms. Carol Pavin, Mr. Sliva Kyomuhendo, Mr. Aryabareeba Jason, Mr. Stephen Buloolo, Mr. Kamukama Alex, Mr. Trevor, Mrs. Vick, Mr. Wandera Noah, Mr. Lukwango Rajab, Ms. Daisy, Mr. Duncan in Kenya, Mr. Raymond Kugoza, Mr. Jaymo, Mr. Elisa Bwogi, Mr. Murungi Joab, Mr. Bob Isaac, Our German friends Mrs. Hildergaurd and the entire family, Ms. Ingrid, friends, our own relatives and all those who have supported our various programs through donations, advice or visiting our offices we thank you so much.

We also appreciate the entire HOCRAM team starting from the Board, management team, Staff, volunteers, head of administration Ms. Reenah Ntoreinwe and Mulago National Referral Hospital management especially the Management and Staff of Kiruddu Burns and plastics Ward (Holland Ward) for the services you extend to the burns patients and for allowing us to work together to bring hope to the underserved.

Hope Care Rescue Mission also thanks all the volunteers including Ms. Ayesiga Doreen, local leaders, religious leaders, various academic institutions, beneficiaries, our online friends and supporters, who like, comment and advise us on the various posts and community at large for the commitment, trust and support given to the organization in order for work to run smoothly. May God bless you all our dear partners, without you we would have not reached where we are today. We hope and promise to work very hard for the well- being of the underserved people.