## **BACKGROUND:**

The organization is a Christian NGO registered with National NGO Board and Ministry of Constitutional affairs as Company Limited by Guarantee with a goal to restore hope and transformation of the people disadvantaged by war, disaster and HIV/AIDS in Uganda for missionary and evangelistic purposes in accordance with the Great Commission of Jesus Christ (Matthew 29:19-20 and Mark 16:15-18).

The organization was started in 1998, at a time that Northern Uganda faced civil turbulence and registered with the National NGO Board in 2003. It was set up to provide alternative and effective means of releasing people from the bondage of poverty, ignorance, sin and disease caused by the civil war, disaster and HIV/AIDS.

The organization is currently operating in coordination with the Office of the Prime Minister, Disaster Management Department as well Lira District Local Government. Deliverance from poverty, disease, ignorance and sin is our mindset, advocacy is our means, the holistic transformational gospel of Jesus Christ is our process, and partnership is our methodology.

The beneficiaries of our program are: the displaced persons, war affected children, the marginalized and the poorest of the poor. War affected children include: former abducted/ child soldiers, street children, displaced, orphans HIV/AIDS infected and affected due to war rape/ sexual harassment, destitute/abandoned children. We place great value on spiritual, physical, socio-emotional, and cognitive/ mental development to make a whole person.

## Vision:

Transformed lives of people who have lost hope or distressed through spiritual, physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional outreach and transformational development programmes.

#### **Mission Statement:**

To demonstrate God's love by alleviation of human needs and sufferings in Uganda and around the world with the efforts to relieve human sufferings through the provision of food, clothing, shelter, medical care and other basic necessities of life.

We also help facilitate the development of healthy, vibrant and self-sustaining communities by addressing issues of education, food security, water & sanitation, employment, community health, and disaster mitigation projects. In every endeavor, we seek to exemplify Christian compassion and benevolence while conforming to the highest standards of integrity.

Our goal is to evangelize the world through Christian missions and compassionate outreach. Our ministry outreach began with 5 orphan children in Northern Uganda and quickly grew to hundreds of destitute children and families within the region. Since those early days, we have been serving children and communities with the love and compassion of God.

Value Formation, Community Building-Maintaining Creation.

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Our evangelistic mission is to build and equip local Churches, sponsor local missionaries, support Bible schools, provide gospel materials (Bibles, study literatures, tracts, children's study Bibles, Jesus Film, banners) and use Church equipment (PA systems, tents, musical instruments and chairs) to present the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our compassion outreach is to develop projects and relief to impoverish communities, sponsor suffering children and orphans, establish Children's Homes, Feeding and Learning Centers, food distribution to desperate people, low-income housing for the homeless and assistance to help stabilize family households. Education is another important aspect of our outreach to children. Our organization has been very effective in assisting children in primary and secondary education, building schools, pre-school centers, vocation training and scholarship programs for young adults to attain higher education. We also provide primary health care, medical and dental, corrective surgeries (facial deformities, corrective eye and limb surgeries, and emergency care for injuries and disease) as gesture towards life changing efforts for those in need.

Our water wells, farms, farm animals and agricultural programs benefit the children and communities we serve. These programs provide beneficiaries with the resources needed to generate food and income to support their livelihood.

In each aspect of our ministry, the primary aim is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through the efforts of Christian missions, compassionate provision and community involvement. Our passionate witness of the love of God is expressed not only in our words but in our actions. Our organization is committed to bringing true transformation to the communities and families we serve.

The primary source of support to the organization is voluntary contributions, grants and donations from individuals, organizations and Churches located in and outside Uganda. Hundreds of thousands of hurting people have benefited from the prayers and financial support of compassionate people from our country and overseas.

#### KEY PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED BY THE ORGANIZATION SINCE 2001:

## a) Emergency relief and disaster response

The organization has implemented emergency relief programme in Lira district (2002-2003). The main interventions were in Internally Displaced People's (IDP) Camps of Ayago, Starch Factory, Abonyo Otingere, Telela, Ireda, Erute, Bala Stock Farm, Ogur and Aler. The programme focused on distribution of food and non-food items to the displaced people, reconstruction of shelter gutted by fire in the camps, and providing psychosocial support. This programme benefited 11,738 households. It was funded by ACTS/ICCO.

## b) OVC Education Programme

We have facilitated the construction of a child rehabilitation Centre which also serves as education centre with the support from Cord Aid Netherlands was handed over to the community for local ownership and management in April 2004.

This Centre has benefited well over 1,000 orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), the majority of whom were formally abducted children and child soldiers. This centre provides counseling,

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housing, and education to the children. There are also peace education and outreach programmes which help the children to cope. A vocational and life skills training was provided to support the skills development needs of orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) who are not able to continue with normal formal education. The vocational training program was an initiative to provide alternative education and skills development for older orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), these are children who are young parents at early stage or have had exposure to some misfits of life but would need development to become self sufficient and self sustaining. The centre has so far trained 50 orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) in vocational and life skills (2007-2009).

# c) Child sponsorship programme

The organization sponsored the education of 466 orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) through LANoH (Lango Acholi Network of Hope); World Vision-USAID Small Grant Support (2007-2008). The children are studying at primary school, secondary school and vocational skills levels. 75 orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) were supported at secondary school, 50 were supported for vocational skills training while 341 orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) at 4 primary schools in Ogur Sub County, Erute North-Lira district. This enabled the children to access education to unlock their potential towards growth and future development. The 300 orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) living in Internally Displaced People's (IDP) camps were also supported with educational materials to access primary education through the get-back to school campaign. This programme was supported by ACT/ICCO.

# d) OVC psychosocial support project

The organization implemented orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) psychosocial support project (2005-2006) with funding support from ACTS/ICCO. The project benefited 300 children living in Internally Displaced People's (IDP) camps and 180 foster caregivers. The main interventions were on training teachers on handling orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), training parents in positive parenting in crisis situations, counseling, supporting orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) education through provision of school uniforms and scholastic materials. This project fostered retention of the children in school. The main areas that benefited were Aloi, Erute, Starch Factory, Telela, and Aler.

The project was renewed in (2007-2008) to continue providing support to 2,000 orphans and vulnerable children in the districts of Apac, Dokolo, Lira, Oyam and Pader where scholastic materials (exercise books, pens, school bags and sanitary wears) were provided and their caregivers trained on livelihood skills in the area of income generating activities (IGAs) and community reconciliation and social recovery through community networking and family safe nets with funding from ACTS/ICCO.

## e) Discipleship and outreach

The organization has also been running Christian outreach programmes to the hurting communities in displacement. This has been a means of preaching hope, peace and love to the people affected by the war. The outreach programme brought together the Catholic, Anglican and Pentecostal Churches in the fraternity of communicating the love of God to the people through proclamation and demonstration. The main activities involved training the Christian leaders, preaching the gospel of peace and love, distribution of Bibles, facilitating the Leaders with bicycles, supplying learning materials and supporting youth and student conferences. This

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programme reached the areas of Ireda, Lira Pentecostal Church, Aler, Truth Fountain Churches. The materials for this programme were provided by Missions with Africa, Inc (MwA) – USA.

## f) Youth peace initiative

We carried peace education in schools as a school based with facilitation from Lira District Local Government. The school peace clubs was initiated in every school (2001-2002). The main objective of the peace initiative was to equip the youth with conflict management and peace building skills. The clubs also provides avenues for peer counseling and conflict resolution.