2024

Coalition For Human Rights

COHRE TEAM





[COHRE ANNUAL REPORT 2024]

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the key achievements and initiatives undertaken by the Coalition for Housing Rights and Equity (COHRE) throughout the year 2024. It also draws intentional references to previous years, allowing for a comprehensive analysis of progress and challenges faced

Table of Contents

COVER PAGE ----------0
TABLE OF CONTENT.....**1**
MISSION STATEMENT 2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 3-5
ACTIVITY OVERVIEW..... 6-9
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW..... 9-10
IMAPACT ASSESSMENT 11
CHALLENGES FACED ----------11
STRATEGIC APPROACH---------- 12
CONCLUSION----------12

MISSION STATEMENT

to promote and improve human rights situations, health and livelihoods of the marginalized and vulnerable people, women and youths and empower them towards improvement of their freedoms and well-being.



Executive Summary

Coalition for Human Rights Education (COHRE) is a non-profit organization focused on enhancing human rights and health access for marginalized individuals. Our aim involves supporting victims of human rights violations by understanding their experiences and aiding in the improvement of their overall wellbeing.

Our mission focuses on enhancing human rights, health, and livelihoods for marginalized and vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth and we strive to empower these individuals to improve their freedoms and overall well-being.

Our approach involves research, documentation, human rights education, sensitization, and raising awareness about stigma, discrimination, gender-based violence (GBV), sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), as well as monitoring inclusive policies and democratic systems.

We assist beneficiaries in becoming self-sustaining through skills development, handicrafts, and guidance in utilizing their natural talents.

Founded in 2012 and officially registered in 2014, COHRE has emerged as a prominent organization focused on grassroots human rights advocacy. The organization is dedicated to promoting health access for marginalized women and youth. Through various programs, we have successfully reached over 10.000 individuals.

COHRE collaborates with a diverse range of stakeholders, including Kp-led organizations, women's organizations, local governments, and community groups to enhance its impact. Our team is made up of dedicated individuals and volunteers who are passionate about creating positive change. But despite our achievements, there is still a considerable need for support. Human Rights awareness among our target groups remains significantly underfunded yet we would want our strategy to address these gaps on a national scale. Many young people continue to lack access to crucial Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information that is vital for informed decision-making. A significant portion of our focus groups require empowerment initiatives that can lead to better economic justice and self-sustainability.

These existing gaps in our programs highlight the urgent need for additional funding and resources to broaden our outreach and improve our initiatives.

Our two primary programs; Skills Empowerment launched in July 2024, aims to enhance self-sustainability among marginalized and vulnerable youth. While the civic rights awareness initiated in 2022, focuses on educating the target group about their legal rights and self-understanding of the Ugandan laws.

These programs have positively impacted participants, yielding measurable outcomes such as improved personal security, a decrease in occurrences of gender-based violence (GBV) and intimate partner violence (IPV), reduced self-stigma, enhanced sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) awareness, and increased understanding of the legal framework among marginalized youth.

To further advance these programs and introduce new initiatives that can benefit an even larger number of individuals, we are actively seeking additional funding.

Budget

The total budget for our upcoming fiscal year is **726,700,000 shillings** which include allocations for program development, staffing, operational costs, branding and outreach efforts. We anticipate that with additional funding from partners, well wishers and donations, we can significantly increase our impact. We hope to embark on more resource mobilization to enable and support this budget.

To ensure accountability and measure success, we implement comprehensive evaluation methods that include both pre- and post-program assessments. These assessments allow us to gauge the effectiveness of our initiatives before and after their implementation.

Additionally, we conduct participant feedback surveys to gather insights directly from those involved in our programs. This feedback is invaluable as it helps us understand the participants' experiences and areas for improvement.

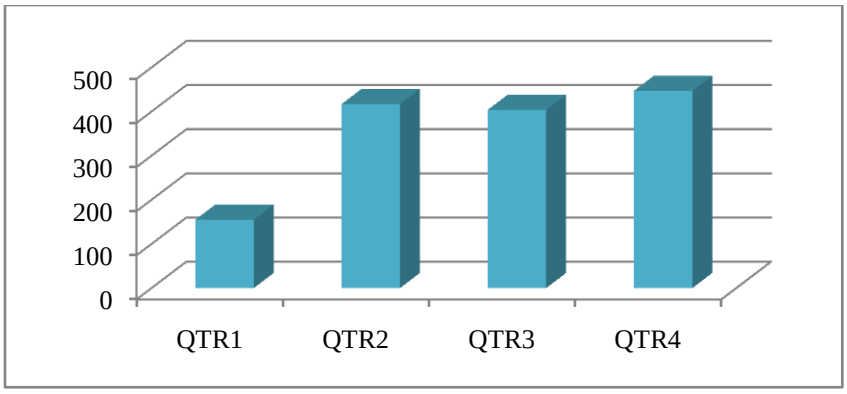
Furthermore, we maintain regular reporting on key performance indicators (KPIs), which are specific metrics that reflect our program's performance and impact. By analyzing these metrics, we can continuously refine our programs based on data-driven insights.

Looking forward, we are dedicated to ensuring sustainability through a variety of diversified funding sources. This includes seeking grants from foundations and government entities, encouraging individual donations from supporters, establishing corporate sponsorships, and organizing fundraising events.

Our strategic plan outlines the steps we will take to secure ongoing support while also expanding the range of services we offer. This multifaceted approach not only enhances our financial stability but also allows us to reach a broader audience with our initiatives.

We invite you to consider partnering with us at COHRE as we work towards making a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve. Your support is crucial in helping us bridge the gap in human rights awareness and empower future generations. Together, we can create meaningful change and foster a more just society.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN HIV PROGRAMMING

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

COHRE key activities since 2019 to Date

1. Advancing inclusive heath access in community:

a) Inspired change in health access for the marginalized and vulnerable communities and individuals:

- Improving Health uptake through awareness and sensitization
- Discussion and dialogues on Gender Based Violence with beneficiaries
- Monthly dialogues on security and legal awareness and emergencies
- Alliance meetings with key stakeholders

2, Inspired Human Rights Education and Human Rights advocacy

- Conducted Human Rights seminars and discussions.
- Engaged and presented papers in international Human Rights Education conferences.
- Attended and engaged in partner and collaborative workshops with other partner organizations.
- Provided space for engagements and discussions with partners and other stakeholders.
- Attended and participated in partners planning and strategic meetings and workshops
- Engaged and participated in local and international women and for women workshops, seminars and Think Tanks.

3, **HIV prevention services among Key populations and priority Populations** in support of ministry of Health guidelines sub granted by Infectious diseases institute (IDI/CDC/PEPFAR)

- Deep engagement in HIV prevention aimed at Uganda and global Goal Triple 95
- Aimed and focused towards U=U

- Increased a number of people who know their status through accessible HIV testing and Self testing distribution for most at risk
- Increased awareness on HIV prevention, HIV treatment and adherence and other Sexual Health treatment accessibility.

4, Integrated services and inspired discussions

- Covid vaccination camp at Drop in centre
- Skills improvement programs
- Tb screening and awareness
- Family planning sensitization and referrals
- Psycho-social support and counseling sessions
- GBV prevention and awareness dialogues at DIC
- Law and Policies awareness and conversation meetings
- Hepatitis open camps at Drop in centre
- Hot spot guided discussions in target areas is Sissa, Sabagabo, Katabi, Entebbe Municipality and Nsangi.

5, Civic Education and awareness and advocacy programs

- Held setting the levels (STL) workshop with key served health facilities and district Health Team and 50 members to identify and improve monitoring of health access for the marginalized groups.
- Held Sing of Freedom workshop (SOF) with 20 community members as an empowering methodology into understanding human rights and Ugandan laws and policies as an advocacy strategy.
- Participated in different engagements with partners both National and international for Human Rights Improvement and shared awareness**.**

This year **2024**, we have undertaken several key initiatives, many of which build upon previous efforts while introducing new programs designed to meet the needs of our target population. Our programs included:

- Maintaining and expanding upon successful programs from prior years to ensure ongoing support for our community.
- In response to emerging needs, we have launched additional initiatives that specifically address gaps identified in our target population's requirements.
- We have strategically aligned COHRE efforts with the needs of those we serve, ensuring that our initiatives are relevant and impactful.
- We have implemented systems to assess the effectiveness of our programs and gather feedback from participants to continuously improve our offerings.
- Engaging with partner organizations and stakeholders has been a priority to enhance resource sharing and maximize the reach of our initiatives.
- To further support our goals, we have initiated awareness campaigns aimed at educating the community about available resources and services.

- We are committed to empowering both staff and community members through training programs that build skills necessary for effective participation in our initiatives.
- Recognizing the importance of long-term impact, we are focusing on sustainable practices within all new and existing programs.
- We actively monitor social trends and demographic changes to adapt our strategies accordingly, ensuring relevance in a changing environment.

These well intentioned efforts have added to:

COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVE:

We successfully launched three new outreach initiatives that reached over 850 individuals in underserved areas.

a) Health Education and HIV Literacy

These programs were focused on health education and improving HIV literacy for the target population and other beneficiaries. The aim was to enhance understanding of HIV transmission, prevention, and treatment options available, thereby empowering individuals with knowledge to make informed health decisions.

b) Human Rights Education and Gender-Based Violence

Another key area of focus was Human Rights Education, which included sensitization around legal frameworks related to gender-based violence. This initiative provided information on rights and protections available under the law, as well as security measures for those affected by such violence. Additionally, psycho-social support was offered through a network of counselors, paralegals, and peers who provided guidance and assistance to individuals in need.

c) Skills Empowerment Programs

Finally, we engaged in empowering key individuals and groups with skills in various creative fields such as shoe making, acting, and music composition. These programs aimed not only to provide vocational skills but also to foster self-expression and community engagement among participants.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS:

We have maintained our partnerships through the SAUTI network, which is coordinated by the SAUTI YOUTH FOUNDATION. This foundation works with various organizations, including Solace of Embrace in Hoima, Resilience Women in Gulu, Rainbow Shadows in Mbarara, Lived Realities in Jinja and Youth Initiative for Health and Community Empowerment in Masaka and others. The primary goal of these collaborations is to enhance service delivery, advocacy efforts,

and resource sharing among the involved entities. As a result of these partnerships, we have successfully expanded our reach and positively impacted over 200 individuals who are vulnerable and marginalized through monthly dialogues and annual workshops hence strengthening our networks and engagements.

To further improve our engagement with women and enhance the capabilities of our members, COHRE has recommended various members and staff participate in feminist leadership and mentorship programs offered by MEMPROW and other partners. We have also engaged some members in advocacy meetings and sharing with Loose network Uganda to address pressing issues affecting marginalized and excluded women. Our involvement extends to international seminars and conferences focused on human rights education, where we engage in discussions aimed at tackling human rights challenges faced by marginalized youths and women.

Furthermore, we have encouraged our member's participation in paralegal trainings conducted by HRAPF to gain additional knowledge, training, and capacity development in the legal needs for the community we serve.

COHRE's involvement in health access through HIV prevention programs, supported by the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI), has significantly evolved. Initially, COHRE operated as a peer team member within the broader framework of HIV prevention initiatives. Over time, this role has transformed into that of a partner organization, actively collaborating on key population initiatives aimed at preventing new HIV infections.

This partnership focuses on several critical areas including access to Health services, treatment and care, community engagement closely working with communities in building trust and enabling interventions, and capacity building through training to promote and enhance service delivery and prevention as earlier elaborated.

Through these efforts, COHRE has not only expanded its operational scope but has also strengthened its impact on public health concerning HIV/AIDS management in the regions it serves.

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT AND EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES:

We have successfully enrolled 12 participants in our shoe-making skills program, and we are planning to enroll an additional 5 participants in design and fashion. This initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to empower young people towards self-sustainability and economic justice. To ensure the continuity of these programs and to increase enrollment numbers, we are actively seeking funding sources.

In addition to our primary programs, we are collaborating with other marginalized groups to promote a culture of saving through the Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization (SACCO) method. This program is still in its early stages but aims to provide financial literacy and savings opportunities for participants especially among the key and priority populations.

Furthermore, COHRE is encouraging young marginalized individuals to participate in our acting program and music production initiatives like rainbow riots music. These efforts are supported by our ART for Activism program, which has successfully completed three short stories and two future films, showcasing the talents of our participants while promoting social change.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM PARTICIPATION INCREASE:

Our volunteer program experienced a notable rise in participation, with more than 6 volunteers dedicating their time to support COHRE health access initiatives. This involvement has been crucial in bolstering our programs and enhancing community engagement by facilitating communication, gathering feedback, and establishing direct outreach connections with our peers.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW:

Our financial position remains cautiously optimistic, as we are progressing gradually. We have maintained ongoing engagements through direct sub-grants and collaborative activity-based funding, which have allowed COHRE to continue its service to the community. This area presents opportunities for further growth, and we are actively fundraising to support our budget. Key financial highlights include**:**

Our strategy has involved securing direct sub-grants that facilitate our operations and enable us to engage effectively with the community.

We have also benefited from collaborative activity-based funds which enhance our capacity to serve and address community needs.

While our current financial situation is stable, there is a clear need for growth in this area. We recognize this necessity and are committed to pursuing additional fundraising efforts.

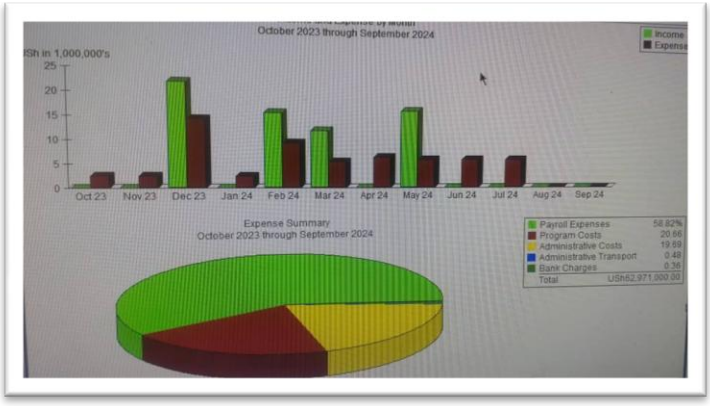
However in the past year, our NGO has experienced a decrease in revenue compared to the previous fiscal year. Our total income was at 64.4%, marking a slope from the 136.90 % income in the previous year.

While we celebrate the continuous flow of revenue, it is crucial to address our expenditures as well. The total expenses for this fiscal year amounted to **62,971,000**, reflecting decrease from last year's **103,628311.** The primary areas of expenditure included:

13,009,000shs (19.2%) of our budget was allocated to direct program services aimed at fulfilling our mission while administrative expenses accounted for **18.3%** of total expenditures; we have made efforts to streamline operations and reduce costs where possible.

Our net assets have grown significantly this year, now totaling **7,303,986** compared to **2,765,363** last year. This improvement reflects not only our increased revenues but also prudent financial management practices that have allowed us to maintain key initiatives.

Our ongoing fundraising initiatives are crucial for ensuring that we can finance our operational budget adequately.



Looking ahead, we are optimistic about continuing this trend in financial performance. Our strategic priorities include diversifying funding sources further and enhancing program efficiency while maintaining high standards of accountability and transparency.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together this past year and look forward for more feedback and guidance as we look further ahead.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

We conducted an impact assessment this year to evaluate the effectiveness of our programs. The findings indicated that:

- Participants reported a 94 % improvement in their overall well-being due to our services.
- Feedback from community and individual surveys highlighted increased awareness of available resources and support systems.

These results affirm that we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

CHALLENGES FACED

Despite our successes, we encountered several challenges this year:

1. Funding Constraints: The competitive landscape for grants has made it increasingly difficult to secure funding for new and planned initiatives. This has created significant hurdles in advancing our projects and fulfilling our mission effectively.

11. Staffing Issues: Retaining and hiring highly qualified staff for key roles has been challenging due to budget constraints affecting remuneration packages. This situation has hindered our ability to build a strong team capable of driving our initiatives forward.

111. Legal Framework Challenges: The ongoing effects of restrictive laws have negatively impacted many strategic activities for the community we serve. Programs aimed at advocating for the constitutional rights of minority have had to be redesigned in response to these legal constraints hence delaying implementation.

1v. Limitations Reaching HIV Hard-to-Reach Areas: Several targeted locations have been left out of reach due to resource constraints, particularly within our health access program. Additionally, key hotspot dialogues were excluded from our initial plans, further limiting our outreach efforts.

v. **Responding to ever growing Needs of community**: Many communities face significant challenges that hinder their ability to access necessary healthcare services. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach that considers the social determinants of health, community resources, and systemic barriers that influence health outcomes and access to care.

LOOKING AHEAD: OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH TO CHALLENGES

We are committed to actively seek out diverse revenue streams that will enhance our financial resources and support the growth of our organization. By broadening our funding base, we aim to secure the necessary capital to fuel our initiatives and expand our impact.

Our focus on staff development is paramount. We plan to implement robust strategies that foster employee commitment and create supportive environments through strategic partnerships. This investment not only enhances individual skills but also strengthens team cohesion and organizational loyalty.

To better align with the needs of our funders, we will prioritize collaborative projects, forming consortia where feasible. This approach allows us to leverage collective expertise and resources, ensuring that we meet the expectations of our funding partners while maximizing project effectiveness.

We recognize the importance of remaining responsive to community feedback. Our commitment lies in continuously engaging the community needs of the people we serve while steadfastly pursuing our mission.

CONCLUSION:

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation for the steadfast support from our board members, staff, volunteers, and donors. Together, we have achieved remarkable progress over

the past year and in previous years. However, there remains much work to be done. I eagerly anticipate collaborating with all stakeholders as we continue this vital community service.

Thank you for your support and guidance from community organizations and partners that have engaged COHRE and contributed to enhancing our team and staff capacity across various fields. This collaboration has been instrumental in enabling us to evolve into what COHRE is today.

END