



ANNUAL REPORT - 2013

Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children Welfare (UCOBAC) is a non-partisan, Non-Government organization situated in Uganda with its headquarters in Kampala - Mbuya Zone 1. The organization was established in 1990 with a purpose of improving the welfare of women and children using community based initiatives.

Slogan:

Empowering Vulnerable Communities

Vision: We envision empowered communities free of poverty and able to exercise human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Values: Honesty, transparency, accountability, excellence, integrity, volunteerism, teamwork and empowerment of all individuals and communities.

Strategic Focus Areas: Orphans and Vulnerable Children, Health, Governance and Human Rights, Economic Empowerment. All these are supported by institutional Capacity Building, Advocacy, Networking and Communication.



UCOBAC ED handing scholastic materials to a sponsored pupil of Bukokhe Primary School.

Foreword by Executive Director

With pleasure, I would like to present to you UCOBAC Annual Report for the year 2013.

In 2013, UCOBAC continued to empower vulnerable women and

children through five major programmes; Orphans and Vulnerable Children, Governance and Human Rights, Economic Empowerment, Health, Advocacy, Networking and Communication.

It is UCOBAC's strong conviction that when women are socially, economically & politically empowered, they become great agents of change and give better care to children who hold the future of the Nation.

Among several achievements made in 2013, was the finalizing of development of UCOBAC Strategic Plan which will guide the institution's work during the period 2013 - 2017. The strategic plan is drawn against the background of the a worsening socio-economic situation facing women and children in Uganda.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support we continued to receive from our funding partners, local Government officials & UCOBAC volunteers in the communities we worked in 2013. Their combined efforts contributed greatly towards achieving our goals and set targets.

ACRONYMS

UCOBAC	Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children Welfare
CFTC	Canadian Feed the Children
IDF	Independent Development Fund
WLPR	Women's Land and Property Rights
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
VSLs	Village Saving and Loans Scheme
HBC	Home Based Care
HBCA	Home Based Care Alliance
FPP	Focal Point Person
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
T and AI	Transparency and Accountability Initiative
VHT	Village Health Team
IDF	Independent Development Fund

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UCOBAC 2013 GRID



A

A - Grassroots women of Mbuya marching towards a violence free life on International Women's Day 2013

B - UCOBAC Executive Director & CFTC Representative at a classroom block ground breaking - Bubuzi Primary School

C - Day of the African Child celebrations in Bugiri district, June 2013



C



B



D - Community watch dogs in a WLPR baseline survey. (UCOBAC/IDF)

E - UCOBAC Health Officer (*on the left*) hands over start up capital to Mbuya Youth Group chairperson.



D

2013 ACTIVITIES

1. Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)

Community Development Program (CDP)

Supported by its development partner CFTC, UCOBAC implemented the CDP in two sub-counties of Bugiri district – Bulesa and and Buluguyi in 2013.

The overall goal of CDP in 2013 was to ensure full development and realization of the rights of OVCs and to strengthen the capacity of OVCs, their families and communities to enable them to develop and sustain themselves.

Its major areas of focus included; education, nutrition, health, livelihoods/food security, capacity building and public engagement sectors.



Primary four class of Nambiya Primary School



Newly constructed classroom block at Bufasi Primary School - 2013

Community Development Program

Sector/ goal	2013 Activities	Outcomes
<p>a) Education: To improve conditions of learning leading to improved school enrolment, retention and performance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 558 children received scholastic materials on a term basis such as; books, pens, pencils and bags. • 300 sponsored children received school uniforms. • Construction of 1 classroom block with 4 classrooms at Bufasi Primary School • 500 desks were provided to Bukokhe and Bufasi Primary Schools. • 32 peer to peer education sessions were held in 8 Government aided schools by 35 trained peer educators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased enrollment of children in primary school. • Retention of children in school due to less children dropping out of school. • Children attend school more regularly than before. • Improvement in children's school performance. • Over 4000 children were taught about child rights, importance of education, sanitation and hygiene through peer to peer education sessions.
<p>b) Nutrition: To promote good nutrition among school children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 565 households of sponsored children received vegetable seeds (in form of; cow peas (Gobe), Sukuma wiki, egg plants, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved nutrition for over 5000 school children and their family members.

Community Development Program

Sector/goal	2013 Activities	Outcomes
<p>Nutrition</p>	<p>cabbage, spinach, beans and groundnuts seeds) to grow kitchen gardens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of maize flour, soya and sugar to the 8 sponsored schools to prepare porridge for the school children. Each child receives a cup of nutritious porridge on a daily basis at school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced levels of children absenteeism from school. • Improved class performance; Children can now stay in school for longer hours as well as concentrate on their studies without hunger pangs courtesy of UCOBAC/CFTC-school feeding program. • The supported schools are realizing a increase in enrolment because of the feeding program
<p>c) Health:</p> <p>To improve the health and living conditions of vulnerable children and their families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 pit latrines were constructed in households of sponsored children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved general hygiene in homes and communities thus less spreading of diseases.

Community Development Program

Sector/goal	2013 Activities	Outcomes
<p>d) Livelihoods</p> <p>To improve household incomes, ensure food security at household level, instill a saving culture and increase access to basic needs such as healthcare, housing, education needs etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 working VSLS groups each with 10 members were supported to start up IGAs, engage in group saving; and access loans to start up individual activities to generate income and boost household food security. Some of the group activities include; poultry, mushroom growing, maize growing, goats rearing, vegetable and fruit growing. • Group capacity building- Equipping of the groups with skills in leadership, group formation, dynamics of business management, savings and loan management, record keeping etc. • Supervision and monitoring of the 20 groups' activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened capacity for groups to generate and manage income as a means of eradicating poverty and fighting hunger.

Community Development Program

Sector /goal	2013 Activities.	Outcomes
<p>e) Capacity building:</p> <p>To build and strengthen the capacity of individuals, families and communities to sustain their lives and their families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 104 community volunteers were trained by UCOBAC supported by Bugiri district Agricultural Office. They were trained on nutrition and good farming practices. • 1 training for child caretakers (parents and guardians) in each of the 8 sponsored schools on nutrition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1000 child caretakers were trained on nutrition. • Enhancement of capacity of 104 community volunteers with skills and knowledge of supporting their families by maintaining good nutrition and practicing proper farming methods leading to food security for the families. • Child caretakers attained knowledge and skills to effectively manage their farms/gardens to sustainably produce food at household level.
<p>f) Public engagement:</p> <p>To promote and protect human rights and good governance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 local to local dialogue sessions were held at 3 schools of Bufasi, Bukhohe & Nambiya Primary Schools in Buluguyi subcounty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced community engagement platforms in the community

Community Development Program

Sector/ goal	2013 Activities	Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 community dialogue sessions with maximum of 50 participants' were held around issues of child rights and health (hygiene, nutrition, malaria prevention and management, HIV/AIDS prevention and management in children and adults). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased community participation in decision making on matters affecting their lives. • Increased Government's responsiveness to community priority needs. • Strengthened capacity of community members to organize and engage with their local leadership as a way to promote good governance, sustainable development and human rights observance.



Group of peer educators preparing for the Day of the African Child



Senior District Education officer Bugiri Mr .Igambi David at kitodha primary school

Raising awareness for the protection of African Child Rights

Under the theme; “Elimination of harmful cultural practices affecting children”, UCOBAC, World Vision Bugiri and Compassion International organized the Day of the African Child celebrations in Bugiri district. The occasion was graced by various local Government officials from Bugiri district who urged parents and the community to diligently mind all children in all capacities because they hold the key to tomorrow.

2. Health

Marching away from Domestic Violence



In commemoration of the International Women's Day in 2013, UCOBAC mobilized and organized the grassroots women of Mbuya Home Based Care Alliance along with community members to participate in a march aimed at creating awareness on domestic violence.

The march took place in Mbuya – Kinawataka area under the theme, “Zero tolerance to Domestic Violence”.

Representatives from the Uganda Police and Kampala City Council Authority were part of the celebrations.

This opportunity was used to sensitize community members about domestic violence and its effects. They were also encouraged to break the silence on domestic violence by reporting cases of abuse to the police.



FPP of Bugiri HBCA, Florence Enyogu facilitating a session on the provisions of HBC and HBCA

Capacity Building for HBCA members

15 new grassroots women from 8 HBCAs (Bugiri, Jinja, Kawempe, Rubaga, Kaboong, Nakawa, Busia, Mbuya) supported by UCOBAC were trained on HBC, HBCA and effective communication.

The 2-day training was held at Eastern Route Hotel – Kireka with the purpose of building the capacity of the new caregivers.

Besides sharing best practices and learning about the goal/objectives of HBCA and HBC, participants acquired knowledge of formulating an alliance, effective advocacy, networking, communication and lobbying for their respective alliances' sustainance.



Products of Kawempe grassroots women on sale at the workshop

UCOBAC - UHMG Community Health Outreach



A mother testing for HIV/AIDS

300+ community members of Katoogo Zone in Kinawataka were beneficiaries of free medical health services provided by UCOBAC and Uganda Health Marketing Group (UHMG) in July 2013.

Access to quality medical care by many men and women remains a challenge due to the significant inequality in opportunity.

Through initiatives such as the community outreach organizations such as UCOBAC/UHMG enable families to attain affordable quality medical care.

Besides being cautioned against usage of local herbs, self medication and failure to complete prescribed dosages; communities received general medical care for ailments such as; malaria,



Mothers at UCOBAC Health Center waiting to receive antenatal care

Health Outreach continued...

diarrhea, body aches and pains, respiratory tract infections, de-worming, UTIs and family planning (HIV/AIDS testing and counseling).

70 mothers received free antenatal care services at UCOBAC Health Center. They were taught about the importance of good nutrition and proper hygiene to limit spreading of diseases in their communities.

HBCA National Peer Exchange

A Peer Exchange is a learning tool that grassroots women organizations employ to learn from the experiences and practices of each other. The exchange brings grassroots women organizations together around mutual development interests and connects the work they do locally to broader agenda for change nationally and internationally.

5 Home Based Care Alliances including; Nakawa, Mbuya, Bugiri, Kawempe and Rubaga visited Jinja HBCA (SWID) in a national peer exchange.

Major focus of the peer exchange was sharing of Disaster Resilience experiences particularly by the hosting HBCA.

Participants learnt about the meaning of Community resilience and the steps of disaster resilience process.

As a learning experience, members visited SWID's resilience projects and sites. These include:

- Food security initiative (demonstration garden in Buwenge with 300 women as members).
- Land and housing scheme (in Walukuba).
- Revolving Loan Fund
- Sugarcane plantation



Rubaga & Bugiri FPPs visiting one of SWID's projects at the National Peer Exchange



HBCA members learning about disaster resilience at the National Peer Exchange

Disaster Resilience



KHBCA members during a disaster resilience activity



House built by SWID members through Revolving Credit Fund (RCF)

Advancing MDG 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

This year UCOBAC supported a youth group called Real Foods Mbuya to start up an IGA in form of a pastry making project.

Real Foods Mbuya specializes in production of cakes and bread with a hope of introducing new products in due time.

High unemployment rates remain a challenge to the economy of Uganda with 78% of the population under the age of 30. (State of Uganda population report, December 2012)

HBCA Strategic Planning and Review meeting

Organized and coordinated by UCOBAC Health Department, grassroots women under the Home Based Care Alliance participated in a strategic planning and review meeting held at Eastern Route Hotel –Kireka.

The HBCA reviewed overall 2013 achievements which include;

- Training of 15 new grassroots women.
- Successfully held 1 board meeting.
- 1 strategic meeting with the trained 15 grassroots women.
- HBCA National Peer exchange in Jinja concerning disaster resilience.
- Production of the HBCA brochure.

- Provision of IGA funds to two alliances that had not received any funds. These include; Nakawa and Jinja
- Holding of local to local dialogues with local leaders.
- Enrollment of caregivers into the VHT system.

Planned activities for year 2014

- Formulating a new alliance.
- New HBCAs such as Mbuya to hold local to local dialogues.
- Enrollment of more caregivers into the VHT system.
- Engagement of home based caregivers with the media particularly through radio programs for increased visibility.
- HBCA meetings.
- Nationalizing the Alliance
- Production of a monthly HBCA newsletter.

3. Governance and Human Rights

Promoting Transparency in public health system



Trained grassroots woman (left) interviews the in charge of Muyenje Health Centre II

UCOBAC aims at promoting good governance by supporting grassroots women at the local level to implement anti-corruption strategies that will induce improved service delivery and access to justice.

In 2013, UCOBAC implemented a one-year pilot study of the Transparency and Accountability Initiative in Bukomero and Dwaniro sub-counties – Kiboga District.



Community members of Mwezi in a T and AI dialogue

With an intention of combating corruption in the health sector, the T and AI was developed by Huairou Commission and UNDP to develop strategies that are gender sensitive and grassroots oriented thus creating resilient and sustainable governance practices.

Selected grassroots women were trained on human rights, good governance, maternal health and the national budgeting process to enable them to effectively participate in a baseline study which led to the monitoring and evaluation activities of four local health centers' service delivery.

4 health centers were visited;

*Katwe Health Center III and Muyenje Health Center II (Dwaniro sub-county)
Bukomero Health Center IV and Mwezi Health Center II (Bukomero Sub-county)*

Evidence collected shows that the impact of corruption on poor communities is enormous and needs more attention through frequent inspection of government health facilities to boost their efficiency.

Mubende, Kiboga and Mityana CHRWs trained on Women's Land and Property Rights.

In promoting women's land and property rights in their respective communities, each team of community paralegals in Mubende, Kiboga and Mityana under UCOBAC received a 2-day refresher training on WLPR in the areas of; gender analysis, human rights, women's rights, domestic relations and women's property rights, succession law, women's land and property justice, ADR.



Community paralegals of Mityana undergo a human rights training



The Independent Development Fund (IDF) joined hands with UCOBAC in a 2-year project aimed at promoting WLPR in Kiboga district.

Community paralegals were selected from the parishes of; Katalama, Kalokola, Matagi, Kyoomya, Kikooba, Kalokola, Kateera, Kagogo, kakinzi and Mwezi, and trained to promote WLPR in their communities.

Awareness raising was ensured through community dialogues, local to local dialogues,

New Partnership

dissemination of illustrative posters and translated reference material on WLPR.

Over 1000 community members have been sensitized on WLPR.

Several cases regarding land and property are being addressed by the administrative justice institutions.



Group photo of participants of a local to local dialogue after a session

4. Economic Empowerment

Strengthening Community Based Resource Mobilization

The project is aimed at improving the standard of living of rural vulnerable families in Mid-western Uganda by empowering them to have sustainable income & savings.

Project activities

Training group leaders and members in Group Formation and management, savings, IGAs, Health, better farming methods, Business Planning and management, Savings Management, Credit management, Record Keeping and children rights.

Conducting a Revolving Credit Fund (RCF) amongst organized women groups.

Village loan and saving schemes.

2013 mainly involved giving out manageable credits to solidarity group members and monitoring of their IGAs by the field staff. Below is a table showing 2013 progress.

District	No. of loans given out	Value of millions (in millions)	No. of groups given loans	No. of members given loans
Mubende	8	20	8	128
Kiboga	23	92	23	368
Hoima	28	146	28	448
Total	59	258	59	944



A - The RCF project field staff (center) interacting with a leader of a solidarity group in Hoima on how the Group is progressing in the areas of savings, IGAs and group management.

B - Hoima Credit officer (standing) inspecting a piggery unit of one Solidarity group member.

C - Kiboga Credit officer (inset) inspecting a tobacco garden of one solidarity group in Kyankwansi District.

5. Organization Capacity Building

New Strategic Plan

UCOBAC developed a five year (2013-2017) strategic plan with;

Vision: We envision empowered communities free of poverty and able to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mission: To attain improved welfare of vulnerable women and children using community based initiatives.

Objectives:

To identify and define vulnerable women and children, their needs and priority programs.

To advocate for positive welfare policies and programs to meet priority needs of vulnerable women and children.

To plan, design and implement programs to promote women and children's welfare.

To enable individuals, families and the local communities to acquire and sustain the capacity to plan, obtain and manage resources which will improve the welfare of their children

Values:

- Honesty, transparency and accountability in our actions and work.
- Respect for the people we serve.
- Excellence and integrity in our work and have a spirit of volunteerism and teamwork.
- Empowerment of individuals and communities.

More details are shared in the strategic plan.

We value the commitment to improve the quality of life for women & children and the realization of our vision.

Enhancement of Advocacy and Communication

Supported by the Anonymous Partner, ICRW worked with UCOBAC and ULA to develop a civil society advocacy coalition in Uganda that builds the two organizations' capacity in the area of advocacy and communication as well as bringing new and diverse voices together to ensure that advocacy is effective and evidence based as regards WLPR.

Through a series of consultative workshops coordinated by ICRW, needs assessment for UCOBAC and ULA was carried out and later a joint advocacy goal for the coalition was developed.

The coalition aims at promoting and protecting women's land and property rights under customary tenure in Uganda.

Coalition objectives;

- Increase men and women's awareness of the legal provisions for Certificates of Customary Ownership (CCOs) and the rights they confer to both.
- Increase men and women's knowledge of procedures to acquire CCOs.
- Increase recognition of WLPR within CCOs.
- To influence established structures at national and local levels in support of CCOs particularly with regards to WLPR.

Basing on the coalition goal, objectives and discussions held, the project was named **In Her Name Initiative**.

Northern Uganda is the selected pilot study area as statistics indicate that 76% of land in the Northern region is under customary tenure.

Support the initiative by liking its facebook page and joining the conversation:

<https://www.facebook.com/InHerNameInitiative>

Monitoring and Evaluation of WLPR

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) is working to build the capacity of UCOBAC with Uganda Land Alliance, Tanzania Women Lawyer Association (TAWLA) and PWC in the area of monitoring and evaluation as regards WLPR.

An intense needs assessment of the organizations revealed a skills gap in the flow of monitoring and evaluation structure from community to organizational level.

To that effect ICRW is supporting the respective organizations through a series of workshops held in Uganda and Tanzania to establish effective and result oriented monitoring and evaluation systems. UCOBAC mid western

project of WLPR in Mubende and Mityana is being supported.

Besides creating of various monitoring and evaluation reporting tools and a data entry system that collects information right from the grassroots communities to organizational and donor community, a logic model along with a theory of change have been developed thus making the Women's Land and Property Rights project more feasible and realistic.

The participating organizations are able to link planned activities to set objectives of the project as well as determining the extent of impact caused by the set goals and objectives. The skills gained will be replicated to other organization programs and projects.

Social Norms Theory

UCOBAC, Center for Health & Human Rights Development, Raising Voices (CEHURD), Health Gap Global Access project and Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) attended a 2-days workshop in August 2013 at Hotel Africana to learn and discuss about the Social Norms Theory and how it affects the respective organizations' focus areas.

Ways of identifying existing social norms, introducing new ones and measuring social norms impact were discussed basing on Professor Cristina Biccheri's research and definition of Social Norms.

6. Advocacy, Networking and Communication

The Mouthpiece

In June 2013, UCOBAC introduced a new communication tool in form of a newsletter called The MouthPiece.

The newsletter which is produced and circulated bi-annually will be a means of sharing information about all UCOBAC on-going activities to all stakeholders.

All interested in sharing views/opinions, articles and stories on various aspects concerning women and children are invited to send in information that will be shared in the MouthPiece.

Bi-annual e-newsletter issue: June 2013

Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children Welfare

Empowering vulnerable communities

The MouthPiece

We are pleased to welcome you to UCOBAC bi-annual newsletter "The MouthPiece". This issue will bring you the latest news and information about UCOBAC as a team. Articles, poems, pictures, opinions and any interesting information from our stakeholders are most welcome! Information sharing is a vital tool for bringing new ideas and influencing change.

Projects round-up

Community Development Programs (CDP)

Consider that the Children's responses contribute to a Government school which are selected and affected by EFP and through UCOBAC CDP.

Customs women march in Mbale

Mbale is a town in the Mbale District of Uganda. It is a town with a rich history and a vibrant community. The town is known for its traditional dance performances and its beautiful scenery. The town is also known for its traditional crafts and its traditional music.

Women's Land and Property (WLP)

Mbale and Mbale... Women's rights work has been... and to promote women's land and property rights in the surrounding community.

UGANDA COMMUNITY BASED ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN WELFARE

Empowering vulnerable communities

UCOBAC NEWSLETTER The MouthPiece

- Editorial
- Day of the African Child
- UCOBAC - UHWG outreach in Katoogo zone
- Grassroots women empowered to combat corruption
- UCOBAC - IDP to enhance women land and property rights
- Youth of Mbale start own poetry project
- Home Based Care members undergo training
- Social name therapy
- UCOBAC - ULA in advocacy partnership
- Pictorial

Minimizing communication costs - Ivy Talk Bulk SMS

To further bridge the communication gap between UCOBAC and the grassroots community, UCOBAC is partnering with Huairou Commission in a one - year pilot bulk SMS project called IvyTalk.

The essence of the project is to help UCOBAC effectively connect with the groups of grassroots men and women in UCOBAC areas of operation.

IvyTalk is being piloted in Kiboga district and Kawempe suburb with the specimen groups being Kiboga Community Paralegals (CPLs) and Kawempe Home Based Care Alliance (KHBCA).

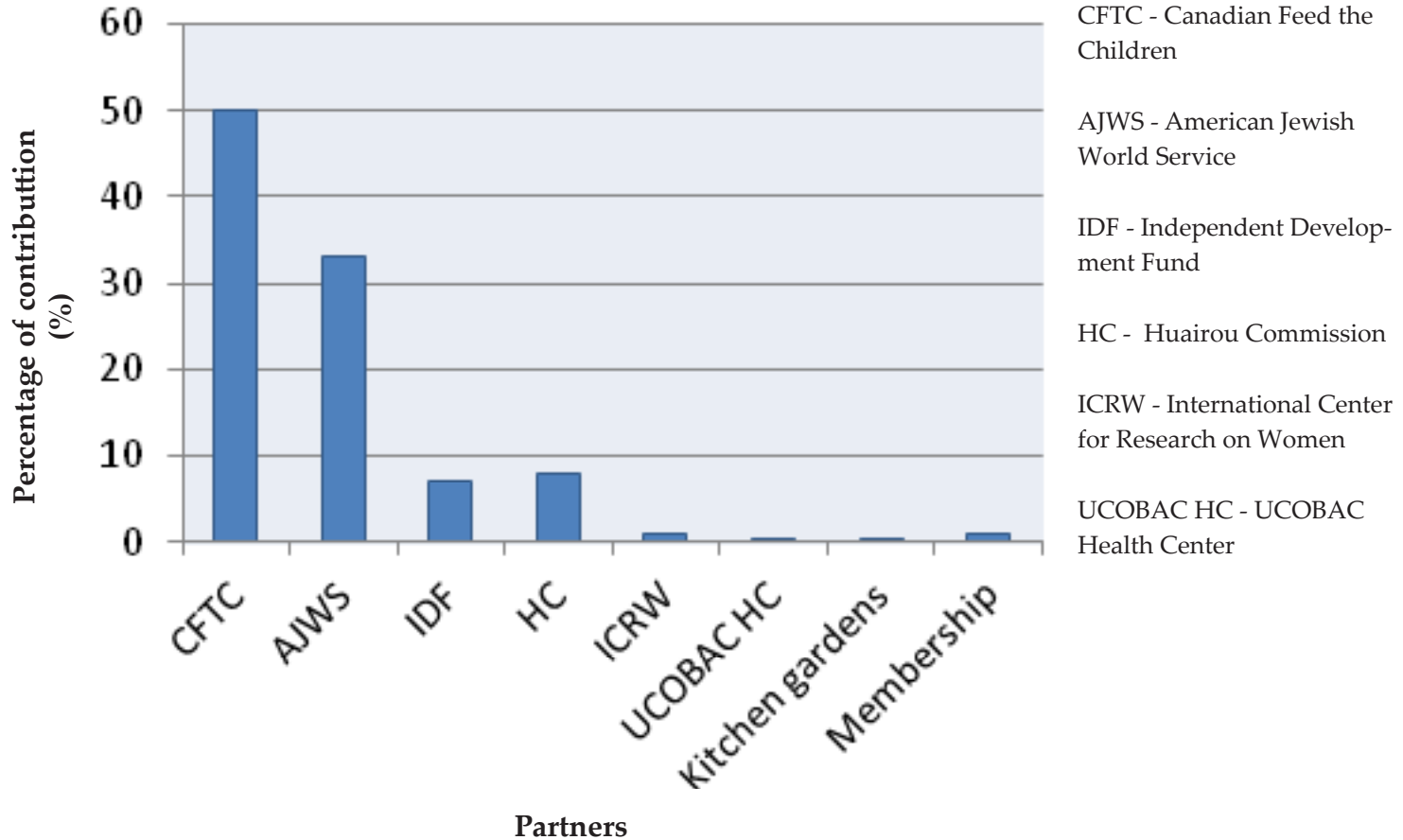
Timely delivery of information for assignments/ meetings and workshops to recipients using cost effective means is essential to UCOBAC making IvyTalk a significant value addition to UCOBAC structure.

IvyTalk is a multi-channel group communication service that uses a simple web interface to create groups and send messages via SMS, email/paging system in the shortest time possible depending on the user's preference.

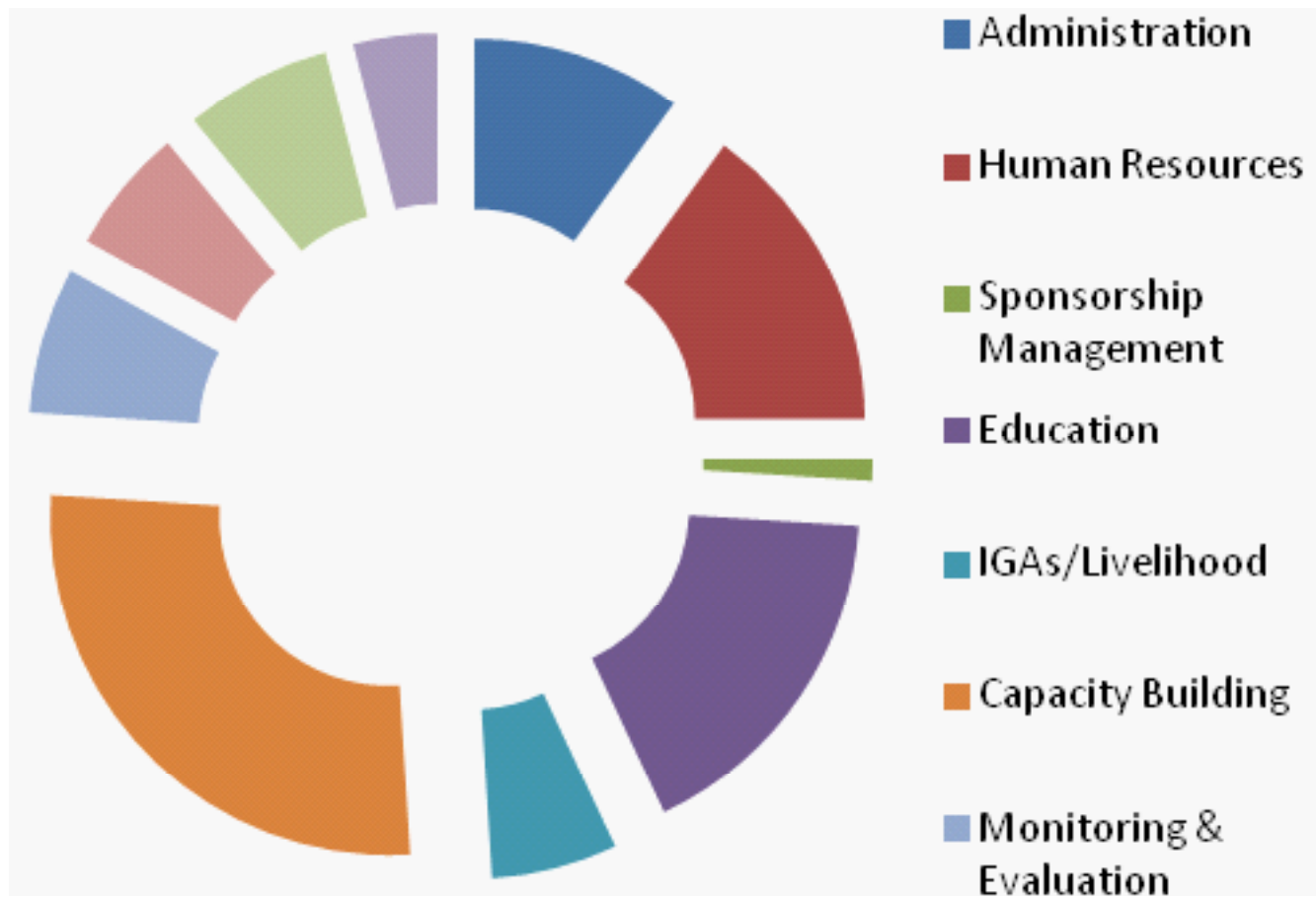
<http://www.ivytalk.com/>

6. Finance

UCOBAC Income - 2013



UCOBAC Expenditure - 2013



It's with great pleasure that we recognize our development partners in year 2013

- Canadian Feed the Children (CFTC)
- American Jewish World Service (AJWS)
- Huairou Commission
- Anonymous
- International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
- Independent Development Fund (IDF)
- GROOTS International



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