

**BUSHENYI INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT [BIRD]
[PROGRAM PROFILE]**

Name of Organization: Bushenyi Integrated Rural Development [BIRD]

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Physical Location [HQ]: Bushenyi Town, Bushenyi District

Legal Status: A Private for Non Profit (PFNP, registered as a NGO with the Ministry of Internal Affairs Registration Number 8997 Under the NGO Registration Act, CAP 113.

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Background Information:

Bushenyi Integrated Rural Development (BIRD) is a Private for Non Profit (PFNP) Organization founded in August 2007 and is registered as a NGO with the Ministry of Internal Affairs –National Bureau of the NGO Board (Registration Number 8997 Under the Non-Governmental Organization Registration Act, CAP 113.

The organization was established in response to increasingly high community demand in several districts of Southwestern Uganda for:

- i) primary health services (PHC) in the difficult to reach areas,
- ii) education support for vulnerable children and youths,
- iii) general improvement of standards in family and community livelihood.
- iv) developing and conducting research and training programs tailored to sustainable community development.

Areas of focus: basic health/maternal and child health services, health and school infrastructure development, education logistical support, youths and women economic empowerment, water and sanitation.

1) Vision: Empowered members of the community, leading a productive life and qualitatively contributing to sustainable national development.

2) Mission: To transform society through building vibrant communities at grassroots through the delivery of quality Primary Health Care Services, education and logistical support for vulnerable children and women economic empowerment.

3) Objectives:

- a) To create a conducive environment for delivery of quality PHC services to communities living in the difficult to reach areas in Buhweju, Bushenyi, Mitooma and Sheema Districts.
- b) To improve community access to basic health services focusing on women and children.
- c) To improve family and household income to eliminate poverty.
- d) To empower the youth through formal and non-formal education for sustainable development

4) Mode of service Delivery (Health Program)

- a) Through establishing primary health facilities/health centers at parish level.
- b) Through conducting community health outreach clinics, MNCH (maternal, Newborn and Child Health) health days, home visits, and medical camps.
- c) Training of community based health workers/village health teams and management committees.

d) Protecting water sources in the community (construction of water tanks, hand dug wells, and improved pit toilet facilities).

5. Achievements (Health program)

- a) Health centers: established 8 functional health centers. *One of the health centers namely Kyeibanga Sheema District, has been upgraded to a health center 111. The achievement has been a result of mainly efforts and commitment of BIRD and members of the local community at Kyeibanga put into promoting health, family and community development in general. This subsequently led to the area also being granted a sub county status (Kyeibanga Sub county Local Government).* Between 2018 - 2021 the health centers and health mobile team registered 48,858 patients, 4120 pregnant women and 457 deliveries, immunized 26356 children, attended to 3266 clients for counselling and testing in the HIV/AIDS clinics. Refer to Table 11 for details.
- b) Established good working relationship with the District Local Governments in the region.
- c) Local health service management structures: trained one hundred and twenty community health workers and VHTs, and ten health unit management committees (comprising 110 members).
- d) Water & Sanitation: Protected springs, constructed 10 concrete water tanks with capacity ranging 30,000-100,000 litres each), installed 5 plastic Crestanks and constructed 20 hand dug wells, in the community, health centers and schools.
- e) BIRD has established and nurtured good and ongoing working relationship with the following Institutions and organizations:
1. Kampala International University (KIU)-Western Campus
 2. Rotary International and Rotary Club of Bushenyi
 3. Several Primary, secondary schools and other Higher Institutions of learning.
- f) Medical Camps: community members have benefitted from medical camps the organization has been conducting with KIU teaching hospital as thousands of members of the local community access treatment and are attended to by specialist which under normal circumstances would not have been the case at that level.
- g) Over 100 Medical students have benefitted a lot from the Medical Camps, BIRD organizes and have come to appreciate the concept and benefits of community health.
- h) Certificate of Recognition: The organization received a certificate of recognition from Southwestern Journalist Association and a letter of appreciation from

Bushenyi District Local Government for the outstanding services to support health and Education programs in the region.

- i) The founder and coordinator of BIRD Ephrance Nuwamanya, has been working with rural communities and families in remote villages in Greater Bushenyi to promote health and standards of living in general since 1987.
- j) Innovation: The organization engaged in an innovation (Vaccination Information Management System-VIMS) to enhance immunization timeliness and coverage.

6. Challenges and opportunities

BIRD has been mainly engaging and supporting community members to improve service delivery in their locality. Families and community members all along have been active and been able to contribute locally available materials, labour and other initiatives to construct health centers and other health promoting activities. *Each patient/client (except for immunization) coming to a health center for treatment has been contributing a small fee (user fee) for treatment. However, as a result of COVID 19 lock down all families and households income has been affected and BIRD has experienced a slowdown and/or halt of several community projects and mainstream activities. For example maintaining a constant supply of medicines to meet the increasingly high community demand for services, construction and completion of unfinished health centers, construction and repair of water and sanitation facilities, transport for mobile health team to support CHWs and VHTs during community health outreach clinics, replacement and repairs of medical related supplies and sundries (equipment, beds and beddings).*

7) Area of operation: Greater Bushenyi districts (Bushenyi, Rubiriizi, Mitooma, Buhweju and Sheema).

Table 1- Established Health Centers and community outreaches

Name	Parish	District	District Ppn	Remarks
1. Beverly HC	Rubengye	Buhweju	120,720	BIRD/Community Initiated
2. Kyeibanga HC	Kyeibanga	Sheema	220,200	Joint Project BIRD& Sheema District Local Government
3. Kisiizi/Kiyanga HC		Mitooma	196,300	BIRD/Community Initiated
4. Laura HC	Ryeishe	Bushenyi	251,400	BIRD/Church
5. Kirambi HC	Ijumo	Mitooma		BIRD/Church
6. Iramira HC	Iramira	Mitooma		BIRD/Mitooma District Local Govt
7. Kikamba	Kikamba	Buhweju		BIRD/Community
8. Rwakariito	Nyakizinga	Mitooma		BIRD/Community

9. Nyamihera	Nyamihera	Buhweju		Community Outreach
10. Kayonza	Rwajere	Buhweju		Community Outreach

Table 11. Clients registered in BIRD established Health Centers 2018-2021.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Patients Treated	12997	8113	13293	14455	48858
Female Pts	7880	4853	7063	7826	27622
Male Patients	5117	3260	6230	6629	21236
Patients Under 5yrs	3223	2484	4291	4112	14110
Antenatal Care	750	919	1086	1365	4120
Deliveries	93	124	110	130	457
Immunization coverage	4475	5006	8965	7910	26356
HIV/AIDS (VCT)		1250	1119	897	3266

8. Highlights of BIRD activities & programs

i. Beverly Health Center-Buhweju District



BIRD engaged families, and community leaders to mobilize resources including manual labour to build the health center in addition to friends and partnerships within and outside Buhweju district.

ii. Community outreach activities



From left: Registration during a COVID-19 jab campaigns and Child Health Days campaigns at Kayonza-Buhweju District.

iii. Medical camp



During a medical camp at Katerera- Rubirizi District in November 2021; **above** clients registration and health education session **below** waiting for treatment. Medics and Rotarians. Over 1200 clients received treatment.

iv. Infrastructure

Kiyanga health center construction



From left: The rooms that have been rented at Kiyanga to serve as a health aid post/center. Privacy and space for clients and staff has been a great concern. The new building to serve as a health center (hasn't been completed due to lack of funds).

As a result of COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown in March 2020, family income and social economic activities have been affected. Consequently user fee collection from the health aid post and fundraising efforts to complete the maternity ward block wasn't possible.

However, the need to provide adequate room for pregnant women, labor suite and other reproductive health services still exist.

v. Kyeibanga Health center



From Left: maternity ward, staff housing and outpatient units, the new health center under construction (by Sheema District Local Government) and the new Kyeibanga Subcounty headquarters.

vi. Water and sanitation:



From left: A hand dug well at Kiyanga Mitooma District, 2-70,000 liters water tanks at Kyeibanga HC (Sheema District) & Kyamuhunga S. School (Bushenyi District), and a five stance toilet for Nyamirama primary school. Rotary Clubs and Rotary International have been the main BIRD partners in development to improve water, hygiene and sanitation standards in the community.

9. Promoting Community sense of ownership:

All the health centers have a unique story of their establishment, but in each story is a community demand driven element embedded and a core value of partnership and teamwork which have significantly contributed to sustainability of the established projects.

Over the years the organization has observed positive trend of a sense of ownership and commitment among the members of the local community.