



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Fonds au Profit des Victimes
The Trust Fund for Victims



STICHTING WEES EEN KANS



INTRODUCTION

2025 was a challenging year. Global changes have impacted the non profit sector globally and organisations like CCVS had to rethink their strategies and ways of working.

After many years of continuous funding and work in Northern Uganda, 2025 was marked by the closure of the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) programme, financial instability, and even a period of closure of all our activities. At the same time, the organisation took the first steps towards some strategic changes in the organisation, that should lead to diversification of funding, strong partnerships with other development partners in Northern Uganda, and increased participation in platforms and fora globally, in Belgium and Uganda, to contribute to sector discussions and promote professional counselling for communities affected by violence.

Despite major financial challenges, the CCVS team remained committed to keeping the organisation alive. Thanks to the dedication of staff, the support of partners, and donations from Wees een Kans Foundation, Flexiplan Foundation and FEMI Foundation, CCVS was able to restart activities towards the end of the year and lay the foundation for the future.

CCVS

CCVS provides specialised psychological counselling for people dealing with severe trauma, depression, anxiety, and other long-term consequences of violence.

At the same time, we work with families, local leaders, and community members, because healing does not happen in isolation. Strengthening relationships and rebuilding support networks is an essential part of recovery.

Our counselling takes place in communities, making professional mental health care accessible to people who would otherwise have no access to it. Alongside counselling, we organise community dialogues, awareness activities, and training for local stakeholders, helping communities to better understand mental health and to support those who are struggling.

Our mission is to provide professional, locally-based mental health care services to individuals, families, and communities who have experienced profound violence, with the goal of fostering mental health, empowering them to rebuild their lives with resilience and dignity, and recreating and strengthening peaceful and supportive communities.

Our Approach to Psychological Counselling



systemic-oriented approach

This system-oriented approach supports the rebuilding and strengthening of the social fabric in communities, which are often impacted by warfare, ongoing armed conflicts, and the warfare strategies used, and addresses the long-term tensions and interpersonal problems in communities. This approach is more sustainable in the long run because of its inclusion of the support network of clients, it usually improves on the ways of communication between different members involved and is closely “related” to the “traditional” collective Sub-Saharan African “ways” of problem solving.



collaborative approach

TA collaborative approach allows the beneficiaries to remain or become the experts in their own lives and stimulates empowerment.



solution focussed

Solution-focused work is helpful in re-discovering focus and resources in the here and now.

OUR IMPACT

Our data consistently shows that most clients show a significant reduction of symptoms of trauma, depression, and anxiety after completion of counselling. Clients also report positive changes in their daily functioning, such as improved family relations, increased participation in community life, and increased ability to engage in livelihood opportunities.

Local leaders often note that mental health support strengthens other development efforts, because people who feel emotionally stronger are better able to take part in community activities and livelihood programmes. Communities regularly ask us to expand our work to new areas, and the demand continues to be higher than the available resources. For CCVS, this confirms that long-term, locally embedded mental health support remains essential in post-war Northern Uganda.

THE END OF THE TFV PROGRAMME

In April 2025, funding from the Trust Fund for Victims officially ended, after more than seven years of collaboration. This programme had been the backbone of CCVS's work since 2018 and allowed the organisation to develop into a specialised centre for community-based psychological support in post-conflict areas.

Through the TFV programme, CCVS provided intensive individual, family, and group counselling to thousands of war-affected people in Lira, Oyam, Alebtong, Kitgum, and Pader. The programme also included community dialogues, stakeholder trainings, radio programmes, and awareness activities, helping to reduce stigma and rebuild social support systems in communities that are still dealing with the consequences of the LRA war.

When the funding ended in April, it was not yet clear whether a new phase of the TFV programme, linked to the planned reparations programme, would start. Because of this uncertainty, the organisation had to scale down activities drastically and prepare for the possibility that the work might have to stop completely, while at the same time hoping to remain involved in the next phase of support for the communities we have been working with for many years.



THE RE-START

After the end of the TFV funding, only a very small core structure could remain in place. Most staff contracts ended, activities were paused, and the organisation focused on maintaining the minimum needed to keep the office, administration, and files safe while searching for new funding.

Like many organisations in the sector, C CVS experienced how difficult fundraising has become, with increasing competition and reduced available funding.

The board and management discussed different scenarios, including the possible full closure of the organisation if no new funding could be found before the end of the year. At the same time, networking efforts increased, especially in Belgium and the Netherlands, to build new partnerships and explore new funding opportunities.

In the second half of 2025, three Dutch foundations, Wees een Kans Foundation, Flexiplan Foundation and FEMI Foundation, decided to support C CVS with bridge funding to be able to keep the organisation going during this difficult period.

These contributions made it possible to keep the core team together and to restart activities on a small scale in Kitgum district. The support did not replace the TFV funding, but it created the breathing space needed to prevent closure. It also showed us that smaller, flexible donors can play a crucial role in keeping long-term programmes alive during difficult periods.

Thanks to this support, C CVS could reopen the office, re-engage staff, and reconnect with local governments and communities. The first weeks were focused on rebuilding the team and creating space for staff to reconnect after months of uncertainty.

Meetings with local leaders helped to renew cooperation and to identify communities where support was most needed. New villages were selected together with stakeholders, and screening and intake of clients started again.

Sensitisation sessions, radio talk shows, and counselling activities were gradually resumed, and community members quickly began reaching out again for support. The response from communities confirmed what we have seen for many years: even long after the war, many people are still struggling with trauma, depression, family conflict, and social isolation, and access to professional care remains very limited.

RESTART OF ACTIVITIES IN 2025



Trainings and coordination meetings were held with local leaders and stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and to jointly select the communities most in need of mental health support.

More than 600 community members participated in sensitisation sessions, helping to increase understanding of mental health, reduce stigma, and encourage people to seek support.



250 intake assessments were completed. Individual and group counselling sessions resumed in several villages, enabling community members to receive professional psychological support.

Radio talk shows were restarted to raise awareness about trauma, depression, and gender-based violence, contributing to increased understanding of mental health and reducing stigma in the communities.



LOOKING AHEAD

CCVS remains committed to rebuilding and strengthening its work in Northern Uganda. Our priority is to continue providing professional, community-based mental health support, while further expanding collaboration with partners at community, district, national, and international level. In Kitgum, we will continue to work closely with local non-profit organisations and remain actively involved in the Kitgum NGO Forum.

We will further develop our collaboration with organisations such as 100Weeks and Caritas Gulu and Kitgum, building on the pilot linking cash support and mental health care, with the aim of expanding this approach to reach more vulnerable families. In Lira, discussions are ongoing with Link to Progress to explore how mental health support for children and their families can be integrated into education and community-based programmes.

At national level, CCVS is involved in the initiation of a high-level mental health platform together with the Mental Health Department of the Ministry of Health, to create space for dialogue on strategic and quality-related issues in the mental health sector in Uganda. We will also continue to participate actively in the MHPSS Technical Working Group and other coordination structures, contributing our experience from community-based work in post-conflict areas.

At the same time, CCVS will remain engaged in partnerships and networks in Belgium, including Be-cause Health, the Province of West Flanders, and the 4de Pijler platform, to strengthen exchange, advocacy, and support for community-based mental health programmes. We also hope to contribute to upcoming initiatives aimed at supporting war-affected communities, including the planned reparations programme, and to remain involved in discussions on the future of mental health support in Northern Uganda.

We would like to thank all partners, staff, and supporters who remained involved during a year that was uncertain for the organisation. We are particularly grateful to the FEMI Foundation, Foundation Wees een Kans and Flexiplan Foundation, whose support made it possible to restart activities when continuation of the work was no longer guaranteed. Their contribution allowed us to keep the core team in place and to resume support to the communities we have been working with for many years.

We move into the coming year working to rebuild our programmes and to continue the support that many communities still need.



CCVS Uganda

Acutomer village, Pandwong Division, Kitgum Municipality,
Kitgum District PO Box 371, Kitgum Uganda

Tel: +256 (0)393 193 684
contact@ccvsinternational.org

