

## PCAU PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

### 2021 Annual Report

PCAU released its annual report which highlights their 2021 achievements and the accomplishments of the 2017-2021 PCAU Strategic Plan. In the report, PCAU acknowledges and celebrates the achievements they have made with the support of CHC! PCAU sends their thanks to each of you, whatever your role, in supporting their work. Read the annual report [here](#).

### Reaching the Most Under-served Communities in Uganda

At the heart of the vision and work of PCAU is taking palliative care and pain relief services to every person and family in need in Uganda. Over the years, PCAU has worked in partnership with the Ministry of Health to reach 107 of the 146 districts with palliative care services. As of December 2020, there were still 39 districts without established access to palliative care and most are hard to reach as they are located in remote areas of the country. A sturdy, reliable vehicle is one of the most valuable tools PCAU has to help realize their vision.

Their current vehicle is a 2010 Toyota Land Cruiser Prado, which was a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) donation. It has done an excellent job in enabling PCAU to take palliative care services to 107 districts of Uganda. PCAU staff have traveled in it as they've moved about the country to raise awareness and advocate for hospice and palliative care services, to establish new palliative care teams, conduct mentorship activities, provide support supervision, and streamline access to pain relief medicines at health facilities across the country. It has also been a shuttle for the children on the Road to Hope program since 2012 – taking them to and from school in the holidays and sometimes delivering supplies. The RTH program currently has 54 children from 19 districts in various schools across the country.



The Land Cruiser has also enabled the PCAU staff to crisscross the country as they fulfill the organization's mandate to accredit health facilities to provide palliative care. PCAU visits health facilities to assess criteria that must be present for this accreditation status: at least one properly trained staff member, a double-locked morphine storage cabinet and proper oral liquid morphine tracking records. A total of 247 health facilities in Uganda have been accredited and most of these are at national, regional or district hospitals.



The Land Cruiser has been excellently maintained but can no longer efficiently serve its purpose. PCAU is now limited with its in-country mobility due to numerous mechanical breakdowns, which hinder PCAU's important work, especially in remote places which have primitive roads and are hard to reach with a regular vehicle or public transportation. Replacing this workhorse with a new, comparable vehicle will cost approximately \$85,000.

A strong, reliable vehicle is core to all of the work of PCAU and we are committed to helping them reach their fundraising goal during their exchange visit to Indiana in October. On Thursday, October 27th this year's *Okuyamba Fest* will be held – the proceeds from this night of food and fun will go to helping PCAU purchase a new vehicle. We hope to see you there!

### Evaluation of the PCAU Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021

PCAU's last strategic plan ended in 2021, and they are currently developing their next five-year strategic plan. Earlier this year, PCAU engaged an outside consultant to review their 2017–2021 operations. Their report will help guide the development of their next plan.

One of the highlights from the evaluation was PCAU's important work in capacity building. The consultant noted they were "over-performing" in their *Capacity Building* objective – meaning they well exceeded their goals for the five-year period! This objective included initiatives like the PCAU national and branch update meetings, platforms that ensure members receive continuous medical education (CME) credits; sharing progress on the development of palliative care in the different districts and at various health facilities; and the provision of scholarships which enable nursing students to complete the advanced diploma in palliative care nursing (ADPCN) course and become recognized clinical palliative care practitioners. Strengthening capacity building is a core CHC/HF partnership initiative.

You may read the entire evaluation report [here](#).

### PCAU National and Branch Update Meetings

National and branch update meetings are key parts of PCAU's work and help fulfill PCAU's strategic objective of capacity building – a fundamental enabler in achieving the overall goal of increasing access to culturally appropriate palliative care through strengthening Uganda's health care systems in collaboration with partners. These meetings are currently supported by donations from CHC staff members.

PCAU holds its update meetings on a quarterly basis, gathering over 1,000 individual members and the 24 member organizations across the country who meet at a national level to extend the continuous professional education sessions to palliative care providers. The update meetings also provide an opportunity for networking and advocacy efforts related to hospice and palliative care issues. There is a scientific committee that decides on the theme, topic of discussion and identification of experts to lead discussions.



The COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns experienced the past two years interrupted the physical gatherings for the update meetings. PCAU scaled back its field work and was unable to bring all members together at its secretariate. However, in the effort to continue championing palliative care work through the lockdown, PCAU embraced technology and continued to hold these meetings virtually. PCAU allocates limited space (about 20 people) at its secretariate to host members who face challenges with internet connectivity. More than 200 members regularly join these discussions and PCAU will continue with this hybrid format for the time being. It allows more people to attend without the time and financial cost of traveling to the PCAU office.

PCAU's next update meeting will be held August 19, 2022 and will be focused on mental health and well-being for palliative care providers.



Do you know someone who might enjoy reading about this partnership and palliative care in Uganda?

Help us spread the word and forward this email to your friends and colleagues. Thank you!

### Help Keep PCAU on the Move!

Reaching the outlying districts of Uganda presents a significant challenge for PCAU. Not only is the distance great, but the terrain can be very difficult to traverse. In order to reach palliative care patients and facilities in those regions, a reliable four-wheel drive vehicle is essential! PCAU's 2010 Toyota Land Cruiser has served them well but is on its last leg. They are in desperate need of a new vehicle that will allow them to continue traveling across the country and bringing access to palliative care to all.

All donations to this fund will go directly toward the purchase of a new vehicle for PCAU. Every dollar counts – thank you for helping PCAU reach those in need of its services!

[Donate to the PCAU Vehicle Fund](#)



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