2020 was certainly a year for the books. The global spread of the COVID19 pandemic created unforeseen challenges that caused us to adjust our programing and pivot operations accordingly. Additionally, the strain on the economy presented a significant drop in major giving which forced us to do more with less.

But despite the challenges, 2020 was a valuable learning experience for us as an organization. It taught us that we can work together to overcome hardship and be flexible in times of crisis. Our local reputation has greatly benefited from our ability to pivot swiftly to address the areas of greatest need. We have formed strong relationships with local leaders that will help us as we continue to grow in Yumbe. Similarly, the fundraising challenges have emphasized our need to create more sustainable sources of income.

We feel confident that the lessons learned during these unprecedented times will carry through our strategy in the years to come. It has given us confidence and strengthened our commitment to the mission. We are so grateful to all who have supported us this past year. Your generosity and concern for individuals you may never meet gives us hope that the future will be a bright one. We look forward to continuing our work in 2021 and sharing the stories of the amazing women we serve.

ELIZABETH JORDAN-FLIGHT & BETTY KONGA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & OPERATIONS MANAGER

The lessons learned during these unprecedented times will carry through our strategy in the years to come...
2020 HIGHLIGHTS

SAFE & EFFECTIVE FOOD PRESERVATION
In 2020 we continued our work empowering women small-scale farmers in Yumbe with the food preservation technology & training needed to reduce post-harvest crop loss. Yumbe, a district of northern Uganda hosting over 280,000 refugees, experienced heightened restrictions do to the COVID19 pandemic. While group training sessions were limited, over 250 women were still able to receive food preservation training and supplies. This will positively impact the food security of over 5,000 people in Yumbe. We were also able to distribute over 17 kg of seeds, farm tools for 100 women and hired 26 women to tend to the farm & preserve demonstration farm produce, giving them a much needed immediate source of income.

DEMONSTRATION FARM
We have experienced great success with our demonstration farm thanks to Betty and the efforts of the Swinga Women’s Group, a self governing group of women from the BidiBidi Refugee Settlement dedicated to improving the conditions of their community. Instruction of basic but effective farming principles, such as row planting and single seed distribution, have and will continue to have a significant impact on the production and ease of harvest for local farmers. After this final harvest at our pilot location, we will be transitioning the demonstration farm to our new compound in Yumbe. The new compound will provide a safe space for farmers to come and learn best agronomic practices as well as food preservation and storage techniques.

COVID19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE
The repercussions of the COVID19 pandemic extend much further than the disease itself. Restrictions on movement and trade implemented to fight the spread of the virus have had a significant impact on food security throughout northern Uganda. Since early on, Preserve International has been committed to working closely with community leaders to provide immediate relief to the most vulnerable. Betty has been very active in the Yumbe COVID19 Response Task Force and we have taken on several new projects to help the community overcome these unprecedented challenges. Since June, we have provided over 15,000 meals to quarantine centers, orphanages and to individuals suffering from physical and mental disabilities. We plan to continue this distribution of emergency food aid until the COVID crisis abates.
While as an organization we believe very much in the “teach a (wo)man to fish” mentality, rather than giving handouts, desperate times call for desperate measures. And in this time of crisis, people simply need to eat and to stay healthy while social distancing.

A 3 Tiered Response

AID: Food shortages & widespread hunger have been one of the main challenges brought about by the pandemic. Preserve International is providing desperately needed food aid to the most vulnerable in the community. This includes 2 orphanages, several quarantine centers and to individuals suffering from physical and mental disabilities.

EQUIP: Another consequence of the governmental policies to reduce the spread of COVID19 has been a lack of access to basic needs, including seeds and tools for small scale farmers. We are working with local organizations to manage distribution of much needed items to ensure a strong harvest.

EMPOWER: We are continuing our work providing food preservation and food storage technology and training to small scale farmers in Yumbe so that they can make the most of their harvests and prepare for continued shortages in the markets over the next year.

The COVID19 pandemic has further reaching consequences than the disease itself. Widespread restrictions on transport, growing food insecurity and civil unrest have increased the severity of the crisis for the most vulnerable.

A 30% reduction in rations to residents of the BidiBid Refugee Settlement by the World Food Program has led to widespread concerns of hunger & malnutrition.

Quarantine centers near the South Sudan & DRC borders have filled at an alarming rate, without adequate supplies to properly care for those in mandated isolation.
Unsurprisingly, the events of 2020 did have a significant impact on fundraising for nonprofits across the board, but in particular for new and international organizations. Despite more than doubling the total number of donors, we did see a 46% reduction in individual gift size in 2020. However, we were able to increase income through preserve sales and social media campaigns. We also received the CARES Act PPP, for $9,000, and an EIDL loan for $23,000.

**ALLOCATION OF FUNDS SPENT 2020**

Total Spent: $77,270.71

- **Administrative Costs**: $21,569 (27.9%)
- **Operational Costs**: $55,702 (72.1%)

**TOTAL FUNDS SPENT IN 2020**

USD $77,270

Operational costs are costs associated directly with implementation of programmatic work, whereas administrative costs cover all overhead and fundraising expenses. As a new organization is not uncommon to have a higher percentage of Administrative costs than the recommended 25%. This is due to heightened focus on increasing the donor base and raising awareness in order to establish longevity in our donor relationships. Fundraising and event costs, as well as printed materials and social enterprise costs will decrease in percentage as the organization grows and operational spending increases over the next several years.