

Uganda

IOCC has worked in Uganda since 2009, partnering closely with the Uganda Orthodox Church. With a focus on long-term development, especially livelihoods through education, IOCC is investing in rural communities as they build for the future.

Emergency Response



IOCC responded to the Ebola outbreak of 2022 in partnership with the Uganda Orthodox Medical Bureau. The project provided emergency personal protective equipment (PPE) and supported infection control at all health facilities affiliated with the Uganda Orthodox Church (UOC). About 100 health workers at 22 health facilities across Uganda, including the Ebola

prevention and response team at each, were trained on infection control and prevention. With each clinic reaching an average of 5,000 people, the initiative helped protect thousands.

IOCC has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic in 17 districts, including Kampala, through its partnership with the Uganda Orthodox Medical Bureau, to conduct awareness building and information campaigns, as well as to procure and distribute personal protective equipment, disinfectant, and other hygiene materials.

Sustainable Livelihoods

IOCC has been working in Gulu, Butembe, and Lwemiyaga with the Uganda Orthodox Church and the St. Nektarios Education Fund to increase access to secondary education and vocational training. These initiatives improve matriculation rates to university studies and help ensure that young adults enter the workforce with skills for today's economy. Students also learn life skills,

grounding their academic learning in the real world where they will work and live and preparing them to enter the work force. In addition, IOCC has improved school infrastructure for students through building upgrades and WASH projects that give students access to clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene, and a more healthful learning environment.



Food Security and Agriculture



Through a collaboration with the University of Maryland, IOCC supported training for students, agricultural teachers, and farmers in modern agriculture best practices. Covering topics like soil, irrigation and pest management, and food safety, the program also included practice sessions in a demonstration garden. IOCC assembled and sent to Uganda an inter-

nationally experienced and highly trained three-member team of agriculture extension faculty and a biologist from the University of Maryland.

The team implemented a production project and conducted extension workshops for farmers in four main project areas:

- Water management both for irrigation and post-harvest handling of agricultural crops
- Soil and plant fertility
- Integrated pest management (IPM)
- Good agricultural practices for reducing microbial contamination (e.g., food safety)

Health



Girls and women worldwide often face cultural and social barriers—even stigma—around their menstrual cycles. One IOCC project set out to change that through menstrual health management (MHM), supporting girls in the Gulu district to learn how to make reusable sanitary pads and take control of their menstrual health.

Additional investments in latrines, clean water, and awareness building ensured girls were able to safely manage their periods each month by reducing stigma and ensuring access to proper sanitation, privacy, and supplies. This allowed girls to improve their school attendance and keep up with their learning without the cultural exclusion that is often associated with menstruation.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Water-borne diseases associated with poor sanitation remain one of the greatest causes of illness and death in Uganda. As part of IOCC's work improving Church-run boarding schools in rural areas, IOCC constructed a new central sanitary block in 2021–2022. Work included a septic system and separate latrines for boys and girls. All work was done in collaboration with the Uganda Orthodox Church, applying engineering best practices and meeting or exceeding all Ugandan government standards.

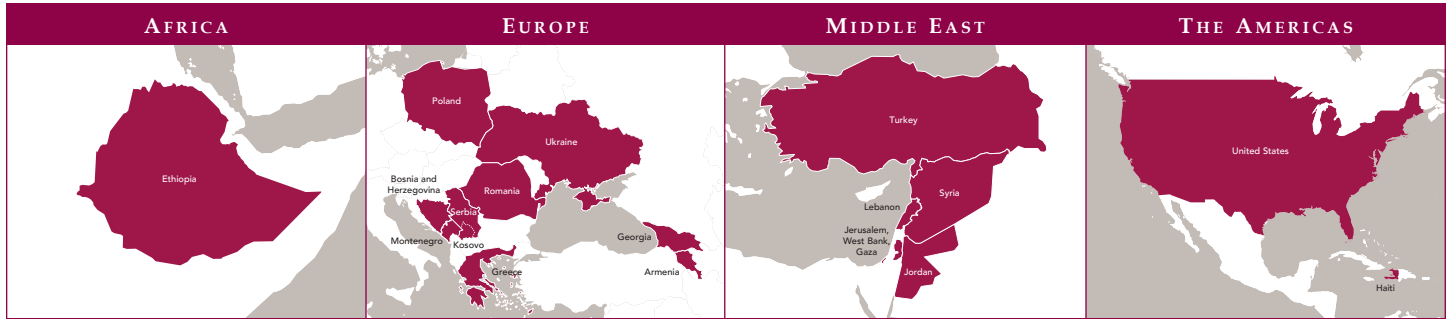
Additionally, to make clean water easier to access in rural areas, IOCC has dug wells and installed rain-water-harvesting systems on school buildings to

collect water that boarding students use for laundry and bathing. This pilot project trained partner and school staff on these techniques so that IOCC can scale up this intervention moving forward.



THROUGHOUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, IOCC continued its projects around the world while taking steps to protect staff, partners, and beneficiaries. All projects are continuously evaluated for multiple risk factors, and appropriate modifications made. IOCC ensures that all staff and beneficiaries receive information about COVID-19, including testing locations, and integrates this information into ongoing projects, as indicated by local health authorities.

Active Worldwide Programs



- Ethiopia
- Armenia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Greece
- Montenegro
- Poland
- Romania
- Serbia including Kosovo
- Ukraine
- Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Syria
- Turkey
- Haiti
- United States



● Emergency Preparedness & Response	150,044
● Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH).....	40,362
● Sustainable Livelihoods.....	2,869
● Food Security & Agriculture.....	129,203
● Health	607,594
● Other (Education, Nonfood Items, Shelter, Protection)	2,917

IN 2023, IOCC SERVED 932,989 PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

IOCC was established in 1992 and is the official humanitarian organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States. IOCC provides emergency relief and development assistance to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church and local NGO and community partners. Its global operations are managed from its headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, in the United States, with field offices in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, East Africa, and the US. Since its founding, IOCC has distributed more than \$800 million worth of aid in over 60 countries around the world, and has extensive experience implementing programs in partnership with United States government agencies (USAID, BHA, PRM) and the United Nations (UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, OCHA), as well as with European and international donors.



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