



NOAH'S ARK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UGANDA

PROGRESS REPORT 2021



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Like 2020, Covid 19 has caused devastating disruptions all over Uganda especially among the vulnerable communities. The vulnerable categories like Women, girls, children and persons with disabilities have suffered the most. We have seen an increase in maternal mortality rates, challenges in accessing sexual reproductive health services, more cases of Malnutrition among children, domestic violence, poverty, teenage pregnancy and child labor.

Noah's Ark Children's Ministry through out 2021 has continued with it's journey of giving hope to the vulnerable Children and communities.

Our Vision

Every Child a family.

Our Mission statements

To promote a Biblical and holistic approach to Child development and care in the family.

Core Values

Biblical, Child centered, Family focused, Integrity, Responsibility, accountability, Dedication, practical/ action oriented, adaptability and exemplary.

Founder's statement.



THE YEAR 2021, with capital letters, has come to an end!

This year will not easily be forgotten as it heights and depth. So close together in a revolving speed. For question is always, what have we learnt!

As lots of lives were lost, some seemingly pre- mature, we all got Corona! How can I say it? "We all got it". As we were pumped with right and fake information, many lost direction and motivation. Our Children didn't go to school; they were home schooled so the restructuring we had to do time and time again was giving many a hard time.

But God helped us through! He took care of us and therefore I can only say PRAISE THE LORD!

As for myself, I got corona quite severe and picked an optimism believing that God was not finished with me because I still had a task to do. Though it took me some good months to fully recover, I worked out to have a task in motivating and pushing our team forward.

The numbers of people that need our ministry will be big in 2022 I believe!

As I see the Lord having a role for our team to play in 2022, it is my request and recommendation to join hands with you again so that through our service we glorify the Lord!

Together in His service,

Piet Buitendijk

Founder,

Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda.

HEADLINES FROM THE YEAR 2021

The Health center on the Covid 19 intervention

The separation of the 2 Health centers as away of managing the spread of covid 19, came as a big advantage.

We had to find a way of ensuring that the two health centers were fully stocked and operational as well as fulfilling our main goal of not exposing some of the children in the children's home whose health is usually fragile.

In 2021 the surrounding community had gotten used to the health facility located out of the main Organization gate.

With the help of our social workers, the health team would take Daily temperatures of the children as well as giving guidance on the diets that would boost the Children's immunity.

The health center in patternership with the District covid task force carried out outreaches in communities educating masses not only on how to prevent the spread of covid but as well on other killer diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, malnutrition etc. which were under looked that time because a lot of emphasis would be put on the covid 19 prevention.

On different occasions, care would be extended to patients in communities who were unable to access the facility, those on the malnutrition program staying far from the facility would have their feeding supplements delivered to them so that the patients don't relapse.

The health center as well was able to lobby for more patternerships through the District Health office – Mukono and Ministry of Health Uganda.

These partnerships have helped us to cost share as well as exposing us to a wide scoop of Health services offered by our facility. We were entrusted with testing as well as being part of the mandatory mass vaccination against covid 19, which is still on going. The free services to the community like family planning, HIV testing, counseling and Antiretroviral therapy (the use of HIV medicine to treat HIV infection), the Nutrition clinic, Immunization, and Antenatal services have enabled us to reach out to as many people as possible.



Above, one of our social workers taking temeperature from one of the Children under the Children's home.



Above, Our Health worker attending to one of the Children.



The Secondary school team leader receiving her mandatory shot



Left, one of the Children taking a mandatory shot. Right, Grandmothers happily waiting for treat

The fight against malaria is still on

Despite the impact of covid 19 being at the center of what is happening in the world, we should not forget that malaria is one of the most severe public health problems. The beneficiaries of our programs being of vulnerable category, puts them at risk in case they get malaria. The main goal of starting our Health Center being to reduce infant and maternal mortality, pregnant women are given priority. The pregnant women's immunity usually goes down during the first and second pregnancies, during our mosquito nets distribution they are first on the list. Dr.Tamar Goossens one of the Doctors in our Health Centers advises that if possible, mosquito nets should be a must have for every body in Uganda.



Above, members of the community with their Mosquito nets at the end of the out reach, our ambulance in the background.

Tamar continues; just one mosquito can infect a family of 10 if none of them sleep under a mosquito net making it expensive to treat malaria in such a family.

When it comes to malaria cases, up to now in our Health center malaria tops the chat on the common illnesses handled. A malaria case in our Health center may cost \$7 however, if a patient is brought in late, some one can even spend over \$ 28 or worst case if pregnant, can lead to premature birth or even a miscarriage.

Malaria if severe can even cause irreversible brain damage. Our Health facility is continuing to reach out to the surrounding communities about the dangers and how we can prevent malaria.

Happy boys after receiving their mosquito nets in the Children's home below.



Above right, members of the community with their mosquito nets at the end of the outreach.



Above, One of the Health facility workers in a sensitization.

The Malnutrition program

The Malnutrition program in the year 2021 recorded the biggest number of cases. Despite causes like poor feeding, ignorance, and poverty, covid 19 has contributed a lot. We have seen babies of below 4 months falling victims to malnutrition because their mothers have failed to breast feed due to lack of food in homes. In such a situation, mothers are boosted with food packages to boost their immunities in order to be able to breast feed.

Many Children have been prevented from damage, for those that come with severe malnutrition; we have been able to offer therapeutic supplements.

We initiated breast pumps for the ones with moderate malnutrition on the edge of developing severe malnutrition but don't qualify to be initiated on therapeutic supplements.

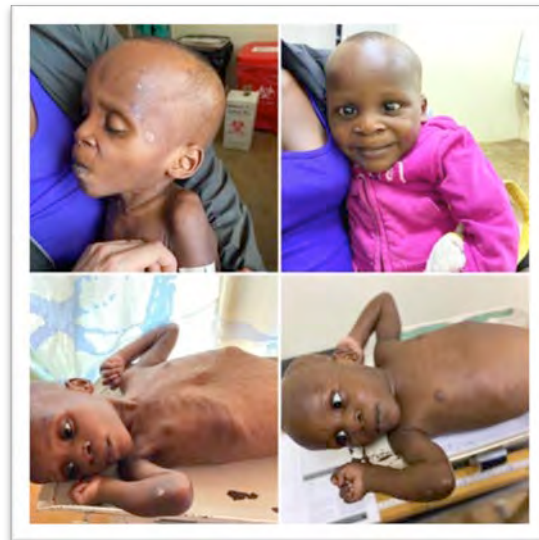
This helps mothers to re-lactate especially in situations where children are not able to suckle well.

This initiative we have seen it being helpful to children with heart problems, premature and those with special needs. This as well helps babies to thrive on breast milk and avoid children getting malnourished because the right feeds are not available plus reducing the cost of alternative feeds are not affordable.

Over 130 families who were formally on the program were called back for review how the children were fairing. They received a Christmas basket with food items for a Christmas meal.

Before

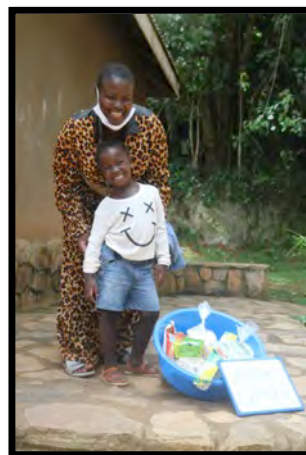
After



Above, before and after pictures of the children that have benefited from the program.



Above, a mother of a malnourished child with a food package.



Above, a mother with a former beneficiary of the malnutrition program after receiving their food package.

The Children's home.



Left, one of the children enjoying a meal. Right the children enjoying watermelon.

We had a lot of hope in 2021 that the world would open up and life would normalize. But it was different! The schools officially opened for a few weeks for some classes and for the lower classes, those didn't open at all. We had to strategize to keep the children active but above all ensuring that they don't miss the academic year.

A few children and their caretakers in the home as well fell victim to covid 19 but we managed to get out of it with the help of our Health center workers. The children's daily temperatures would be taken twice a day; by our social workers, sensitizations on how to prevent covid 19 were carried out and the children's immunities were boosted with fruits and vegetables from our garden.

We created an isolation center for the ones that had contracted covid 19 at one of our health centers to avoid cross contamination. As the year was ending the situation became more relaxed.



Above, lunchtime at the children's home.



Right, some of the children with their care takers in masks.

The latest family unit entrants



Above, Aunt Jessica left with her family unit at Lunchtime.

The Progress of the big children



Above, Hope, one of the oldest Children at her work place as a barrister

As a way of interesting Ugandans to love their own coffee, 2 of our big girls were taken for a barrister course for exposure in coffee roasting and brewing. When we have our training sessions with our coffee farmers, the girls teach the farmers to cupp as well as identifying different types of coffee. Currently, Hope has secured a job as a ballista in one of the coffee shops in the city.

The bigger boys are continuing with their journey of inspiring other youth in improving their livelihood. Our youth are spearheading most of the activities in our coffee program.

When papa Piet and mama Pita together with the children they were staying with left for Kalagala village–Kayunga District in a much bigger home where we have as well set a second base for the Organization, there was room for making their former house a new family unit.

Aunt Jessica having been trained by Mama Pita for so many years, functions as the first recipient for the new babies.

In the Children's home, we had 7 girls between 11-12 years that were due for transition to a family unit.

Those girls have more privacy and are taught how to be responsible in a family setting.

When the girls got the news of the transition, they were so excited to have their own rooms and property because in the children's home, things like clothes; shoes are shared for better management. After Dinner, they have devotion, which starts with praise and worship. It's amazing to see how the girls volunteer to lead the worship and how at home they feel. They are now a happy family of 14 members were new babies come and go.

Below, Mama with some of the teenagers



Growing stronger in Farming

Below, the Children with their harvest.



Harvesting food from our gardens more varieties has not, but has also helped us to expose the children to farming as part of our skilling program. In 2020, we introduced goat keeping to the children, quite a number of children have picked interest. We have seen the goats multiplying on our farm and are hope full that many children will pick interest in the coming years. Our fish farming has as well been expanded with new ponds. We are hoping to sell bigger volumes of Catfish and Tilapia fingerlings and fish feeds and as well being able to expose more farmers and students to fish farming.

We are going to concentrate more on the hatchery and production of fish feeds having realized that it is more profitable and impactful to the community as less people have that knowledge.

In the coming years, we are hoping to use our farm as a knowledge resource to expose more young people not only from vulnerable families but students from different institutions that are majoring in farming.

This will expose our children more and create more partnerships.

We have boosted matooke (green banana) farming as one of the commonest crops grown here by setting another plantation at the Children's home.



Right, farmers in one of our trainings, Left, some of the goats at the farm.

The coffee program.

Below, 14 tonnes of our coffee ready for market.



There has been good progress of our programs in Kalagala. The coffee program as one of our empowerment programs headed by the youth has helped to inspire fellow youth into agripreneurship. In 2021, we were able to acquire full registration and our membership has reached 600 members.

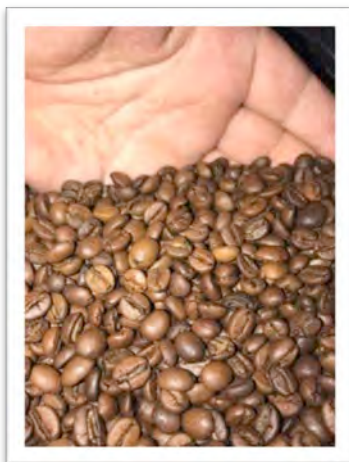
The paper work of our own processing plant was finalized this year, which has helped us to take position in this trade. Through the Noah's ark farmer's association (NAFAU), we have managed to continue with our journey of exposing the coffee farmers to good agronomical processes, which have helped our farmers to increase output. On each of our training meetings, farmers are allowed to carry out coffee cupping (testing) and given a cup of coffee each as a way of exposure to different types of coffee and appreciation of their own coffee. In Uganda 4.8% consumes coffee, i.e. growing it but few have tested it..

We have managed to help our farmers to overcome the manipulation of middlemen through providing markets for their coffee, which has also given our bigger children a chance of exposure.

In 2021, our association managed to collect over 60,000 kilograms of coffee.



Above, The ripe cherries in our garden.



Left, our processed coffee. Right, members of our farmers' association tasting coffee on one of our trainings.

Schools update



Sponsored students with their teacher guiding them about the Home School study packages.

Even though schools were closed most of the year, The Health center was open to receiving the sponsored students in case they needed treatment. In this tough time where the majority were dealing with the impact of covid 19, it was only wise to curb the medical bills. We provided mosquito nets to sponsored students to reduce the treatment costs and other related negative outcomes due to malaria.

The School sponsorship team combined the mosquito nets distribution with study packages, facemasks and food packages for our students on the sponsorship programs. The students were sensitized on the dangers of malaria and how to use the mosquito nets. Their teachers would encourage to prioritise the Home school study packages so that by the time Schools open, our students are able to catch up.

For the children under our direct care, having teachers that are residents on compound and missionaries made it easy to home school the learners.

This time, the learning set up was not the usual classes but any shade and conducive free open air spaces.

Maintenance activities on compound had to be turned into learning opportunities not forgetting agriculture; poultry and goat keeping that were boosted given that we needed to keep them busy.



An open-air classroom above.



Our students doing painting works
Above, below with one of the missionaries



A great new achievement Kalagala community school

We were unable to beat our target of opening the community school in 2021 due to the extension of the lockdown the global pandemic, which led to the closure of Schools. Never the less, we were able to construct 4 more classes and other finishing touches.

The children from the surrounding community kept on coming to check on the school with a lot of excitement.

In the run up for the re-opening of schools in 2022, the reception from the farmers community was commendable. Many farmers say the school has helped to shorten walking distance to their former schools.

One farmer is quoted," *Our hope in coffee farming has been restored*" This is so because the members of our famer's association were given first priority.



Above, the 3 class room block during Construction.



Above, the 3-class room block nearing Completion.

The impact of covid 19 on Schools

Insights from different dialogues have shown a worrying increase in the number of teenage pregnancies and sexual reproductive rights related challenges for adolescent girls across the country as a result of the covid 19 situations in Uganda. Some of our students have fallen victim to teenage pregnancy.

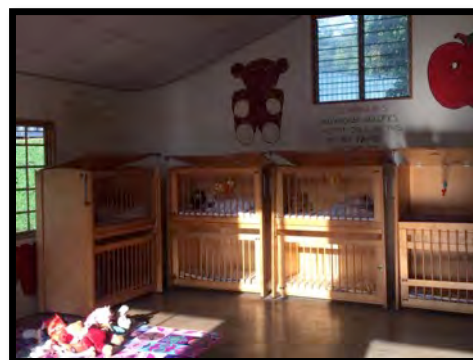
The most immediate issue related to teenage pregnancy during the pandemic is dropping out of school permanently. In order to curb this, our social workers and teachers have been giving psychosocial support to some of our students that fell victim of teenage pregnancy not to drop out of school.

As one of our interventions, we decided

When the government announced the opening of schools, our day care program came in handy to accommodate the children born out of teenage pregnancy.

The schools together with the Health center team developed a program of educating the young mothers on the importance of breast-feeding. The day care being on the same compound with the schools, it is going to make it easy for the young mothers to breast feed the babies during their break times and after go back to class in 2022.

The day care below



Stories of hope from our Reception /Temporary placement center.

The year 2021 has had an increase in sexual and gender-based violence, which includes physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence.

Under normal circumstances, sexual violence and gender based violence cases often go unreported. Abusers often escape justice because of the corrupt and inefficient criminal justice system. The pandemic made reporting to police stations difficult for victims to receive the necessary attention.

Also being that legal services are not considered essential in Uganda, it makes it difficult for victims to receive justice.

Noah's ark Children's Ministry has continued to fight for the voice of the voice less!

Patricia and Pretty's story



Above, our ambulance heading to the landing site to board a ferry to get to the island for the rescue



The founder at the police station with baby Pretty



The founder with Patricia and Baby Pretty

Patricia and her baby sister pretty came to Noah's Ark having received a call from the family protection unit of police to join them in a rescue operation.

Her life was in danger having witnessed the killing of her mother by her mother's best friend who was baby-sitting her young sister.

Patricia's life was in danger as she witnessed the killing of her own mother by her mother's best friend.

Her reason for killing her best friend was to lie to her boyfriend that she had given birth to their baby.

On Patricia witnessing the killing of her mother, she ran for her life. She was able to inform some people for protection who latter informed police.

Lucky enough, when the police got to know, they called Noah's Ark to join in the rescue operation, which was over 100 miles from Mukono district. The culprit had run to an island with the baby on lake Victoria. The rescue team together with the police officers went to save the baby.

This was a National story! Victoriously, the baby was rescued.

Both of them were brought to our children's home for witness protection, care and counseling.

Patricia is in one of our school programs while Baby Pretty is thriving very well almost making a year.

Patricia is very fond of her little sister Pretty.

When the situation is safe we shall resettle them some time in the future if the situation is safe with their maternal grandmother.

The story of Ada and Rema

At Noah's Ark.



Ada and Rema when they had just had come To Noah's Ark.



Ada at her workstation feeding a baby.

The story of Ahereza

At 2 days old, Baby Ahereza was abandoned by his mother in a hospital with his immunization card were his father and his Aunt's telephone contacts are mentioned. The hospital tried to trace the mother and she was found and handed over to the police.

When we were called for rescue, we asked the police to release the mother so that we can take both of them for rehabilitation in our kids shelter program. Our social workers were trying to counsel the mother who at first had difficult with it.

We continued to try to get the family on board to influence the mother.

Together with her family, we were able to influence the mother to love her baby.

Finally through the probation office and police to hand over the baby

A mother and her 3-year-old daughter were referred to our temporary placement program by the family protection unit of the Mukono police. She was found by police officers who were enforcing the law and order at the time of the strict lockdown to curb the spread of covid 19.

Having stayed at Police for three months, all efforts of tracing her relatives ones were fruitless being deaf and dumb.

The family protection unit called us to rescue her because life at the police station would expose the two of them to other.

At Noah's ark, communication in the beginning wasn't easy for our social workers because she had never gotten an opportunity to learning sign language.

The first step was to give her a simple name (Ada) for easy identification.

Being that our mandate is to re-unite families, for Ada its still difficult as she is not able to explain where she came from.

She is surviving with simple signs as well as understanding our daily routine in the Organization.

Because of the love she has for her daughter, we had to put her in our nursing department to help in looking after the babies as therapy to occupy her.

We hope to find some one to teach her sign language so that she can be able to tell her story or even be able to re-unite her with her family.

Her daughter has joined our Nursery school, while Ada is continuing to show love to the abandoned babies under our care.



Baby Ahereza at 2 days old



Baby Ahereza's father, Aunt, mother and social worker on the day of handover.

Christmas baskets 2021



Above, A happy sponsored child with her basket

The lifting of the lock down at the end of the year enabled us to continue with our annual program of extending the joy of Christmas to the beneficiaries of our programs. The Sponsored Children and their families anxiously waited in long lines for their turns to receive their baskets. The Children under our direct care from the children's home organized a Christmas musical to remind those families about the real meaning of Christmas. There after, the day was crowned with a gift basket.

For the ones under the malnutrition program, it was an opportunity for our health workers to check on the beneficiaries. The Health workers screen the children while the parents were educated on Health issues. There after was sharing of testimonies for the newly enrolled.

We managed to share the joy that Christmas brings to over 600 families. This included the sponsored children, the elderly, the staff, the coffee farmers from Kalagala villages and the malnutrition program beneficiaries.



Above, screening one of the children under the malnutrition program.



Above, a sponsored child with his parent with And their basket.



The founder Papa Piet when he had delivered one of the baskets to one of the families at kalagala village. Right, the village head with his basket tied on his bicycle.



Celebrating Christmas in style

Every year, our church through the missionaries or volunteers serving in the Organization organize a Christmas musical as a way of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. This time around, the children surprised us with an idea of spear heading the whole production them selves.

With the help of a trainer they had found them selves, we proudly watched our own preaching to us with a skit and songs about the meaning of Christmas. It was marvelous!

We crowned the day with a special meal and on the 26th the children were showered with lots of gifts.

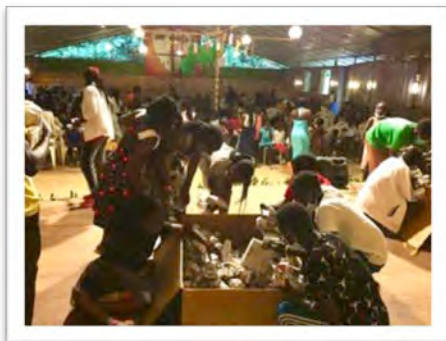
Below, the choir during the musical.



Below, the children in the play.



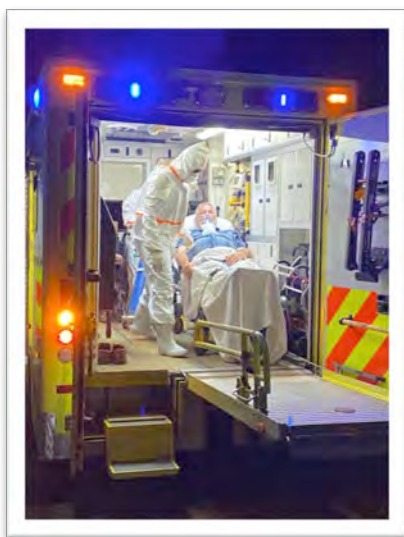
Above, in local dance .



Above, the children checking out their gifts from a box.

Our Challenges

- The high taxes on importation have limited us on the donations we used to receive from our donors out of Uganda. This made us resort to buying home commodities that are of poor quality, limited options and expensive.
- A prolonged lock down which led to the closing of schools as a way of managing the spread of covid 19 in Uganda had a big impact on some of our programs as noted below;
 - I. Loss of jobs to some of our staff like some of the teachers and their support staff made life hard for them given the poverty levels of Uganda.
 - II. As much as management was able to come up with alternative ways of teaching, like home schooling, it had many limitations because the teachers were unable to reach all students especially the ones coming from the surrounding communities being that they come from poor families, survival activities took alot of their time.
- Restricted movement and the hiked transport costs limited some of our beneficiaries from accessing our programs like those under the Malnutrition program.
- When some of our staff and the children under our care contacted covid 19, it caused a bit of panic given the risk of the big numbers we have in the children's home and the number of caretakers.



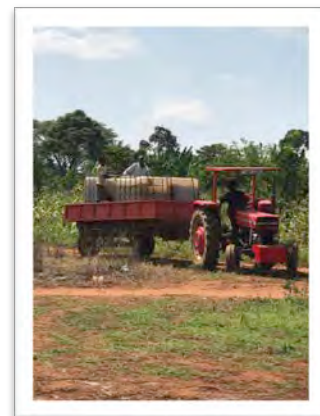
Above, Some of the children in isolation. Right, the founder in the ambulance when he contracted covid 19.

- Boredom as the children and their caretaker's were restricted in movement as a way of managing the spread of covid 19 made some of

Our prospects

We are still committed to helping to improve the lives of the most needy vulnerable children of Uganda, further through impacting more lives and reaching out to more communities in Mukono and Kayunga districts especially.

- In 2021 we started a tree planting program as a way of restoring the environment which had been degraded as a result of activities like sugarcane growing and deforestation by the people of Busaana central of Kayunga District. So far we have planted 100,000 trees and hoping to have planted 150,000 trees by the end of 2022.
- We hope to set up a borehole for the people of Busaana – Kayunga district As a source for clean water to save them from water borne illnesses and walking long distances to fetch water.



Above, our tractor with water for irrigation.

- Continuing with the construction of 3 class rooms /main hall for the secondary vocation school, this will be able to sit more candidates during the National examinations as per the recommendation of the Ministry of Education because the sitting capacity of our current classrooms is small which limits our examination capacity.
- We are planning to set a library for Kalagala Primary School being that the School will be operational 2022.
- We are planning to set a medical facility to benefit the surrounding communities were Kalagala Community School is located in Kayunga District because there is no descent medical facility.

A Message from the General manager

We had a lot of hope in 2021 that the country was going to be fully opened for normal operations. Uganda got a high number of covid cases and so did the Organization compared to 2020.

Through it all our desire to serve is still strong. We are happy with the relationships we have made with our stakeholders as well the new partnerships in the Health sector, Education and local philanthropists. Such relations have helped us to serve more vulnerable communities.

We are optimistic that 2022 is going to be a better year being that the covid 19 cases are reducing, schools are re-opening and a total lifting of the lock down in all parts of the country.

That means that all our programs are going to be operational, we can't wait to fully serve our beneficiaries.

I am as well happy for the communities of Kangulumira, Kalagala, Mutukula and Kamira villages because their children are going to benefit from the soon to be opened in 2022 Kalagala community school as one of our latest addition.

Our wish is to extend a duplicate of the same programs we have in Mukono so that there lives also may be transformed.

We are grateful to our sponsors and well-wishers for your support in 2021, you people remain our champions in this!

May God bless you as we continue holding our torches high for the support of vulnerable communities and Children Uganda.

Sarah Wesonga
General Manager
NACMU.

A quote from Papa,

"Childcare is not a job, its part of life."
Sir. Piet Buitendijk



About us

Established 24 years ago, NACMU as a Christian Organization focuses on holistic childcare and developmental programs, which put children first in all its interventions.

NACMU has worked to provide Education in the four NACMU owned Schools, social welfare, food, accommodation and health needs for thousands of vulnerable children and communities.

NACMU runs a children's home which meets all the alternative care requirements and a Health center iii, which simultaneously serves a wide community.

www.nacmu.org

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A quote from Papa,

"My encouragement is seeing what me and mom have done because we simply showed that we care."

Sir. Piet Buitendijk