



## NOAH'S ARK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UGANDA

### PROGRESS REPORT 2023

Preparing our children not to go back to the village.



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Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda (NACMU) is an indigenous not for profit organization registered with the NGO Bureau under the NGO Registration act 113, File number. MIA/NB/2003/07/4833. We focus on a holistic approach to child development and care, women, hard to reach people with a keen interest on the youth. NACMU runs a Childcare program, Education, Health, Agriculture and a Youth engagement program.



**MISSION**



**VALUES**



**VISION**

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

- Biblical
- Child centered
- Family focused
- Integrity
- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Dedication
- Practical/ action oriented
- Adaptability
- Exemplary.

Every Child a family.

## Word from the founder.



2023 a year with many challenges! In this year, we officially started full operations of all classes of our schools again.

It was not easy to find good teachers for our schools especially senior teachers.

Our biggest challenge has been the sky rocketing prices on commonly used foodstuff like maize flour, rice, cooking oil, which is attributed to the long-term effects of covid-19. This constrained our feeding budget. Theft on our compound and from outside due to the economic situation in the country, which is negatively affecting the poor.

The weather as well was challenging, getting rain almost throughout the year-affected the harvest and damaged many roads even to our facilities. Like in 2022, we are happy that support continued coming in from you our partners and supporters.

By the grace of God, we are happy we didn't loose any life.

We where able to resettle/ reunite many children with their loved ones.

However, a few cases that had been violated came back to us as investigations are going on.

We are happy about the increased numbers of new students in our schools.

The number of vistors /volunteers increased which is a good sign of stabilization in Uganda.

We hope to explore more entrepreneurship opportunities for our youth.

Together in His service,

**Sir. Piet Buitendijk**

**Founder,**

**Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda**

## HEADLINES FROM THE YEAR 2023

### YOUTH SKILLING - Responding to the ever-growing need.

Youth empowerment has always been at the forefront of the efforts of Noah's ark Children's Ministry Uganda. Our desire has always been to support marketable skills that create opportunities for self-employment. We believe, well tutored and guided young people are not only an asset to their communities but also catalysts for change in the future.

This year, we expanded exhibitions on every visitation day of the school term. By doing this, we want to show case the works of our students, explore entrepreneurship opportunities and at the same time showing our parents that the decision of bringing students to our schools is not in vain.

Every vocation is tasked to exhibit products, market to parents and at the end of the day work out the cost , revenue and lessons learnt.

A parent is quoted on one of the exhibitions,"

*"I wish this school was around at our time, I wouldn't have spent a lot of time doing a course I wasn't interested in . I have no regrets binging my child to this school".*

159 students that had sat for their Directorate of industrial training examinations received their certificates this year. This is so far the biggest number in the 13 years of the Secondary school's existence. The guest of Honor who is also the principal officer for technical and vocation development in the Ministry of Education in his speech, commended the work done by Noah's Ark Children's Ministry.

He was happy that our vocation school was already in line with the new curriculum that is aimed at exposing school children to vocation skills with a goal of reducing the skilled labor gap that Uganda is experiencing.

He also commended our vision that already supports the aspiration of Uganda's vision 2040.

This graduation and a showcase of what is done by your students is a good way of being accountable to your stakeholders as an Organization.

This year, we were also privileged to host the Minister for Gender, youth and Children, Hon. Sarah Mateke; She was impressed with what our youth are achieving. She encouraged our youth to embrace different skills for a sustainable future.



Above, A group photo with all the graduates, guest of honor, founder and local council head.



Above, A barista making a cup of coffee for the Minister of youth and children.



Above, exhibiting some of the products made by our students.



## Shoe making - our latest addition

Shoe making and repair is our latest addition to the many vocations we offer. Under this vocation, students are exposed to knowledge of foot anatomy, paying attention to detail, shoe design, materials used, stitching and repair. Our budget on shoes and repair was going high being that you cannot easily find good quality and genuine shoes in Uganda. Introducing this vocation has helped us to expose our students to shoe making and repair. The big numbers on our compound is an added advantage of a ready market for the shoes produced under this vocation.

Many of the shoes on the Ugandan market being imported, making our own would provide our students with an opportunity of producing locally. The class has started with school shoes and hopes to Venture into other designs.

## Our Approach - I teach my passion

Piet Buitendijk (Papa) the founder continues to inspire the instructors to teach with passion so that classes fun.

The Secondary vocation school maintains manageable numbers of students for easy passing on of knowledge to the learners.

All repair opportunities on our estate are study opportunities to our students.

The availability of tools /equipment through the support of you our well-wishers gives our students more exposure and uniqueness.

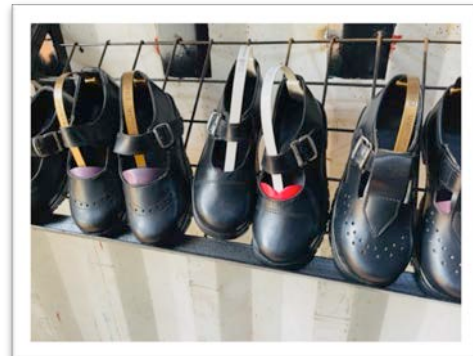
Because of the job market in Uganda being specialized, students are encouraged to be critical, be problem solvers plus ensuring quality on every assignment given.

Our desire would be recruiting instructors from reputable institutions unfortunately, many of them lack exposure.

As an organization, we have benefited from missionaries, volunteers and visitors who come from out of Uganda with unique skills. This has helped to polish both the instructors and our students.



Above, the shoe making class.



Above, the shoes made by the same class



Above, the instructor in blue demonstrating Installation of a hand water pump



Above, the building and construction class on one of the undergoing projects.

## THE COFFEE PROGRAM - our own roaster

Through our youth skilling program, this year, we were able to receive a quality certificate that shows that our coffee meets the international standards at the same time our own roaster Veronica Akweo as one of our pioneer youth was able to get an approval as a certified coffee roaster by the Uganda National Bureau of standards.

Our coffee roaster was successfully installed.

*“What a joy growing, hulling, roasting and brewing our own coffee”*

Our dream has always been to roast our own coffee this way, our youth are exposed at all value chain stages.

Through doing this, we are passing on skills at the same time creating jobs for our youth.

We are continuing to get compliments about our packaged and branded coffee (Noah's Ark Specialty Coffee). As well our coffee shop which is run by our pioneer coffee baristas formerly under the care of the Noah's Ark Children's home is continuing to thrive.

The numbers of our youth that have picked interest in coffee and its agronomic practices is growing up. Many students have joined our Entrepreneurship team to market our smaller packages as a strategy of sharpening their marketing skills.

We hope in the future to open a chain of coffee shops to increase youth participation and empowerment in the coffee industry, which will help to create employment for our youth.



Above, our nicely flowered coffee.



Above, picked red cherries from our coffee garden and below, our smaller roasted beans packages.



Above, our coffee roaster before installation. Right, our coffee shop



## Second chances - Thank you Noah's Ark !

Education being a fundamental right of a child, NACMU believes that when children are educated, they automatically become agents to a sustainable growth and development in their communities.

Child marriage, teenage pregnancy and lack of school fees keep away teenagers from accessing education. In Uganda, 6 teenagers out of 10 drop out of school due to costs associated with education. NACMU continues to sensitize students and parents / guardians about the importance of education.

NACMU continues to look for sponsors and well wishers that can help our children access education from the NACMU founded schools.

Because of the uniqueness of our Education system, students come as far as beyond our area of operation which is Mukono District where we have our headquarters and Kayunga District where we have our second base.

NACMU has opened its doors not only to the children under its direct care in the children's home but also those that come from vulnerable families in the communities.

### **Dorah and Devine**

Dorah and Devine are brother and sister. They came from Gayaza 98 km from mukono to our school through their Aunt who can hardly take care of them. Their mother is a wasted alcoholic who doesn't see any value in education. Through the help of Papa Piet Buitendijk the founder, Devine was enrolled in New Horizon Secondary vocation school. When Dorah sat for her Primary 7, Devine requested the management to enroll his sister Dorah because our type of curriculum was the best for children in their category. Both have been voluntarily helping out in different departments as away of giving back to the organization for their care and education.

### **Sali Edwin**

Edwin was under the guardianship of one of the childcare NGOs in Mukono District. Because of the effects of covid 19, this Organization was closed before Edwin could complete his Education.

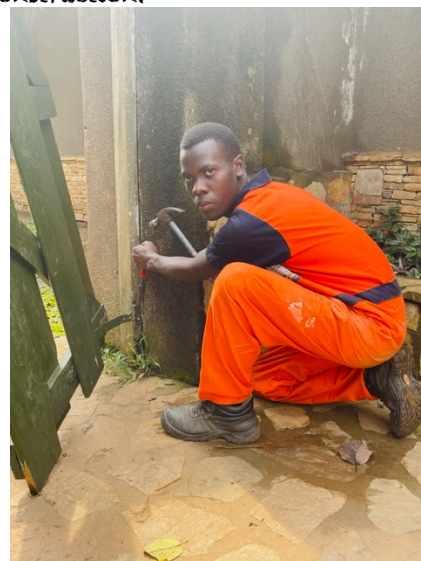
Because of NACMU, Edwin was able to complete his Education. Edwin as a reward to NACMU, he would ensure all carpentry repairs are done before going back home. Before the opening of a new school term, he would report earlier than the rest of the students to help out in the NACMU maintenance department.



Above, Ekalet, Dorah and Suzan helping out in the kitchen.



Above, Devine on his graduation day after receiving a certificate in building and construction.



Above, Edwin repairing a door.

## NOAH'S Ark Health center III



Above, the Health facility team .

Uganda's health care system is still struggling to provide access to basic health care services most especially in the rural areas.

Uganda still has a high prevalence of diseases like malaria topping the chart, HIV /AIDS, tuberculosis which continues to strain the health care budgets.

Being that 75 % of the disease burden in Uganda is preventable, through outreaches, our health facility workers have been sensitizing the communities on improved hygiene and sanitation, vaccination of the 6 killer diseases in children, proper nutrition, mosquito nets use etc.

As a civil society organization, our facility has always been commended for good service delivery.

Noah's Ark family Clinic (Health Center III)'s intervention has helped to solve health issues of the surrounding communities as well as the direct beneficiaries of our programs.

Through our facility, we have managed to achieve the milestones below.

**99 Babies delivered.**

**1984 Malaria cases treated**

**500 Malnutrition cases**

**36 Out reaches carried out**

**487 Immunizations carried out**

**804 Antenatal cases handled**

**28 Refferals to out facility**

**233 Urinary tract infections handled**

**581 Upper respiratory infections handled**



Above, one of our Doctors on one of the out reaches.



Above, a midwife vaccinating a child at our facility.



## The children's home.

We are continuing to provide a home to abandoned children, meet not only their short but also long term needs that give a lasting impact in the lives of the children under our care.

Some of the children in this program come with serious medical conditions, have been abused /neglected and suffer from emotional trauma.

In this program we pay attention to the development of children, Educate them in the NACMU owned schools, train them in basic life skills, encourage them to participate in sports, support their spiritual and psychosocial needs.

In the school holidays, we organize creative educational activities and games that are fun as away of occupying them.

Because children are fed on Nutritious meals, the levels at which they fall sick has reduced which has saved us on the medical bills.

We thank God that together we are changing the lives of these children.

### New entrants in the Children's Home

The rising cost of living has had a big impact on house hold income. Because of this many children are becoming homeless and vulnerable to abuse and neglect.

Because we believe that every child deserves a family, Noah's ark children's Home continues to reunite the children that have traceable family members. The remnants are cared for holistically in our programs

#### **Baby Noeline**

Was born to a mentally ill mother who didn't realize that she was pregnant or that she had given birth. The government hospital social worker contacted the probation officer who requested us to take care of the newborn baby. Efforts of tracing her relatives haven't yielded any results.

#### **Hellen**

Hellen's mother abandoned her at a school event under disguise of going for prayers. At the end of the function her mother had disappeared.

She was handed to the District counselor who took her to the police station. Police contacted us to rescue Hellen.

**15 children were abandoned**

**23 reunited with their families**

**189 children are housed in the Home.**



Above, the children in one of the holiday activities.



Above, breakfast in the children's home.



Above baby Noeline at the hospital



Above, the district counselor, Dr.Tamar and Hellen on her lap.



## The temporary placement Program / reception center.

In 2023 just one police station registered 76 cases of child neglect, 61 cases of missing children and 49 cases of defilement. In just 6 months, another police station had registered 257 child abuse cases. Limited resources, inadequate manpower and poor infrastructure hinder thorough investigation so that justice is served. Our temporary placement center comes in handy to temporarily house the children as follow up, tracing and case follow up is done.

Our center ensures children are rehabilitated, and in some cases we facilitate the police officers in cases that require resettlement/reuniting children with their loved ones/family.



Above mama pita with the twins on arrival and below papa handing them to their father.



Above, promise at the probation office before handing her to us.

### Elvis and Lovisa

Elvis and Louisa twins ( 6 days) came to Noah's Ark Children's Home in 2021 after the death of their mother. Their father having no stable income and it being a covid 19 period, he could easily lose his babies.

Through the probation office, we were requested to rescue these children. Transportation being limited to ambulances and trucks ferrying food, the founders Piet and Pita picked the children in our ambulance 206 kilo meters Eastern Uganda.

The twins being fragile often fell sick.

Elvis's development milestones were always ahead of Louisa but finally she picked up. We encouraged the father to continue checking on the children as away of creating a bond.

When the twins made 1 and nine months, their father had also stabilized we happily handed them back to their father.

### Promise

Promise 9 months was abandoned at her grandmother's home by her mother who had got a job opportunity in Kampala. The grandmother not having a source of income, she as well abandoned her at a place she had gone to visit. The probation officer was contacted because the third person as well couldn't afford to take care of a baby being that she had no source of income as well. Promise is still in this program as we continue to look for her mother.

### Stephanie

Stephanie was formerly under the care of Noah's Ark Children's Ministry. As an Organization, we are happy when Ugandans show interest in fostering a child because we believe children thrive better in families. Stephanie's foster parent was a police officer. When she had her own biological child, she started mistreating Stephanie. The concerned neighbor contacted us. Together with the probation officer, we rescued Stephanie. She underwent medical treatment and psychosocial support by our social work department.

Stephanie is still in the program as police and the probation office continues with investigations about her case.



Above, Stephanie just after the abuse and her current picture at our facility.

29 children received in this program ,  
13 Reunited with loved ones and 16 are still in the program.

## The progress of our new programs

2023 is the second year of operation for Kalagala community school.

Our devotion continues through the many stories and complements on how a safe school can transform the lives of children and the community.

Since our children had progressed in new classrooms, we managed to open the second block, which houses 3 classrooms and an office. What a joy to open this block at the right time because of you our partners.

The school has not only helped to shorten the walking distance but also exposure to reading early compared to the surrounding schools.

The school has a population of 164 students and a total population of 7 teaching and 4 none teaching staff.

The Construction of the 3rd block, which will house the library for Kalagala Primary School and a clinic to serve both the students plus the surrounding community, is nearing completion.

Thank you Run for rio !

### KALAGALA COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Above, kalagala community school above.



Above, the health facility at kalagala community school



## The Busaana tree-planting program.



Above, when we had just planted and right, an aerial view of a forest after 3 years already.

In 2021 we started a tree-planting program as a way of extending our influence in the environmental sector and climate change.

Our program is surrounded by 2 villages i.e. Kasana and Nampayi that are separated by a stream. Together with the village heads, we realised that clean water supply was a big challenge for these communities.

Children would often be seen walking for over 2 – 3 km distances to fetch water, which mainly affects girls and women who are traditionally responsible for collecting water and managing homes. The only source was a stream, which is shared by animals causing pollution and water borne illnesses such as diarrhoea, typhoid and cholera.

Through the support of Gain Germany, we were able to put in place 2 boreholes to provide clean water to the 2 villages benefiting over 2,400 people.

We were happy to officially open the boreholes with our main sponsor.



Above, our sponsors as well as our secondary vocation students who were part of the drilling process.



Above, villagers fetching the first water from one of the boreholes.

Quote'  
"Access to clean air and water is a basic right"  
Park Wan -soon

## Embracing Local philanthropy.



Above, our vocation students in the construction department getting ready to help in off loading cement donated by Tororo cement factory.

Noah's Ark Children's Ministry Uganda has always believed in working collaboratively. Here, throughout the year, we have continued to seek partnerships in all our programs because we believe that we cannot work as a single entity.

This strategy has helped us to the build alliances and networks.

Local Donors have helped us to reduce our big budgets especially in feeding and cost on building.

This year because of our local donors, we have completed a main hall that will be used for examination at the secondary vocation school. This hall will be able to sit more candidates during the National examinations.

This was also a recommendation from Ministry of Education because the sitting capacity of our current classrooms is small which limited our examination capacity.

Another family unit is nearing completion because of you our partners.



Above, an examination hall donated by one of our partners



Above, a food donation from one of our partners.





Above, our children with a food donation from Kibimba rice farm and right pineapples From one of our partners ( Uncle Fenil).



Above, children enjoying fruits from U.Fenil

### Celebrating Fenil Kentilal.

Philanthropy is usually related to hugging a baobab tree, because of it's size you can't do it alone.

Fenil Kentilal commonly known as Uncle Fruits a name given to him by the children because he donates fruits on a weekly basis throughout the year. Because of his big heart, we have had fewer cases of cough and flue. Feeding taking a lion's share on our budget, we always appreciate any one that comes up to support.

Fenil also donates shoes and other personal effects for the children annually. Fenil not only donates, but he also has brought many local donors on board.

People like you make Ministry easier.

Uncle Fenil, you are cherished!



Above right, our partners, U.Manish and wife, mama and papa, our band, the Italian ambassador and wife and U. Fenil third from right.

## CHRISTMAS BASKETS 2023

What a joy to replicate what we have always done for many years. Necessities like a bar of soap, cooking oil, beans, rice, maize flour, tealeaves, matooke (green bananas) etc. all packaged in a basin are handed to the beneficiaries of our programs.

Like our School sponsored children in Mukono, also Kalagala community school sponsored children (our new education program) managed to take home a Christmas basket as well.

Because of you our well wishers, the high prices of food didn't stop us from sharing the joy that Christmas brings.

For the malnutrition program beneficiaries, we added soya porridge, which is a valuable source of protein very essential to the malnourished children.

This program takes 2 weeks of preparation and 1 week of distribution to different beneficiaries. Like year 2022, Uganda was experiencing a wet season; even muddy roads and a heavy down pour didn't stop the beneficiaries from coming for their baskets.

On that day, we were able to remind our Education program beneficiaries of their responsibility i.e., parents ensuring children come to school as well as calling them up for more participation as away of creating ownership.

As a culture, our children organized a Christmas musical to share the message of Christmas, there after; the baskets were handed over to the joyful parents.

The coffee farmers, jajjas (the elderly) plus our staff were part of the recipients of the Christmas baskets. Because of your support, we were able to give out over 900 Christmas baskets. May God bless you.

*A quote from a parent*

**"This is good service delivery, things like these are hardly mentioned".**



Above, school sponsored children with their parents after receiving their baskets.



Above, the beneficiaries trekking home with their baskets



Above, the beneficiaries trekking home with their Baskets .



## Malnutrition Christmas baskets

A week before Christmas as a tradition, we call back all our malnutrition program beneficiaries to our facilities both Mukono and Kalagala to share a message of hope. This is done in form of a Christmas musical presented by the Children under the care of Noah's Ark Children's home. On this day we paid a tribute to the founder of this program mama Pita Buitendijk who was also in the audience.

The other purpose of calling the malnutrition beneficiaries back is;

- i. A source of encouragement that they are not alone.
- ii. Restoration of hope from the former beneficiaries that have fully recovered.
- iii. Winning more ambassadors / mobilisers to ensure continuity of the program.
- iv. Calling them back also helps us to do early detection. Here, Screening is done to see how they are doing, in case of those that relapse, they are put back in the program.

Health education is provided inform of a reminder to feed the children on time especially with foods rich in proteins.

Fortunately, majority of the children recover well. This activity was carried out in both Mukono and Kayunga districts.

Because of your support, we were able to give out 350 Christmas baskets to this program.



Above, the Christmas musical presented by our children.



Above, the beneficiaries of the malnutrition Program Watching the Christmas musical with mama. Above right, screening of a malnourished child.



Above, health education to the mothers. Above right, Happy mothers going back home with their baskets.

## 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.
- The high food prices that have increased our feeding budget.
- Poor harvest as a result of heavy rainfall almost through out the year.
- The increase in the number of malaria cases drains our medical budget.
- Increased theft cases both inside the compound and out side .All caused by the poor economic situation.
- Some of the resettled children coming back due to abuse and violations.



Above, one of the children being brought back as a result of being abused by the guardian

## 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.

- Fully utilising our carpentry class, where students can register for Directorate of Industrial training examinations and be able produce more carpenters. Also increasing the quality and volume produced.
- Completion of family unit 12 and beginning of construction of family unit 13.



Above, the family unit 12 almost ready for occupancy

- The Completion of the 3rd block which will house the library for Kalagala Primary School, a clinic to serve both the students and the community, school office and a computer room.
- We hope to start on the 4<sup>th</sup> block of extra classes i.e. primary 5-7 at kalagala primary school.
- Completion /final touches and beginning of operations of the coffee block at our kayunga base.
- We hope to resume the finishing works on the stored vocation classrooms to capture the increasing numbers of vocational students.



## A message from the CEO's office

As I reflect on how far we have come as an Organization, am grateful for the accomplishments and celebrations in 2023.

This year, we celebrate 24 years of impacting many lives of children and youth.

The resources given for our activities have been able to reach different beneficiaries and services in all our programs and interventions.

Throughout this journey, NACMU has shown encouraging progress and clear impact in the lives of our beneficiaries.

As away of increasing resource mobilization, we have managed to develop new partnerships and alliances for example in the Health sector, Education and local philanthropists. Such relations have helped us to serve more vulnerable communities.

I therefore wish to thank all individuals, funding partners local and international for supporting our efforts in the fight for the plead of the vulnerable children and communities of Uganda.

Our thread of connectivity runs long and deep.

**Gladys Nalunkuma Senkumba**  
Office of the CEO  
NACMU.

## A quote from Papa,

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

Sir. Piet Buitendijk

## A quote from Papa,

"Childcare is not a job, it's part of life"  
Sir. Piet C.Buitendijk



## About us

Established 26 years ago, NACMU as a Christian none denomination 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, Health center iii and a Youth engagement program which simultaneously serves a wide community.

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